HISTORIC VIRGINIA LANDMARKS

By

J. LUTHER KIBLER

LANDMARK MAP

LANDMARK DATA BY J. LUTHER KIBLE

1 WREN BUILDING
2 BRAFFERTON HALL
3 PRESIDENT'S HOUSE
4 COLLEGE LIBRARY
5 PHI BETA KAPPA
6 DUDLEY DIGGES HOUSE
7 "WHEATLAND"
8 FERGUSON HOUSE
9 MINOR HOUSE
10 JOHN BLAIR HOUSE
11 BRUTON CHURCH
12 GEO. WYTHE HOUSE
13 DINWIDDIE HOUSE
14 MATTEY SCHOOL
15 PALACE MONUMENT
15-a SITE OLD COURT HOUSE
16 GOV PAGE HOUSE
17 1ST THEATRE SITE
18 TUCKER HOUSE
19 ARCH. BLAIR HOUSE
20 RANDOLPH-PEACHY HOUSE
21 GRIFFIN HOUSE
22 PARADISE HOUSE
23 UNICORN'S HORN
24 BARLOW HOUSE
25 SITE VA. GAZETTE
26 RICH. BLAND HOUSE
27 RALEIGH TAVERN
28 VEST HOUSE
29 OLD CAPITOL SITE
30 SECRETARY'S OFFICE
30-a PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Elsie Stone
Gable

VILLIAMSBURG, VA.

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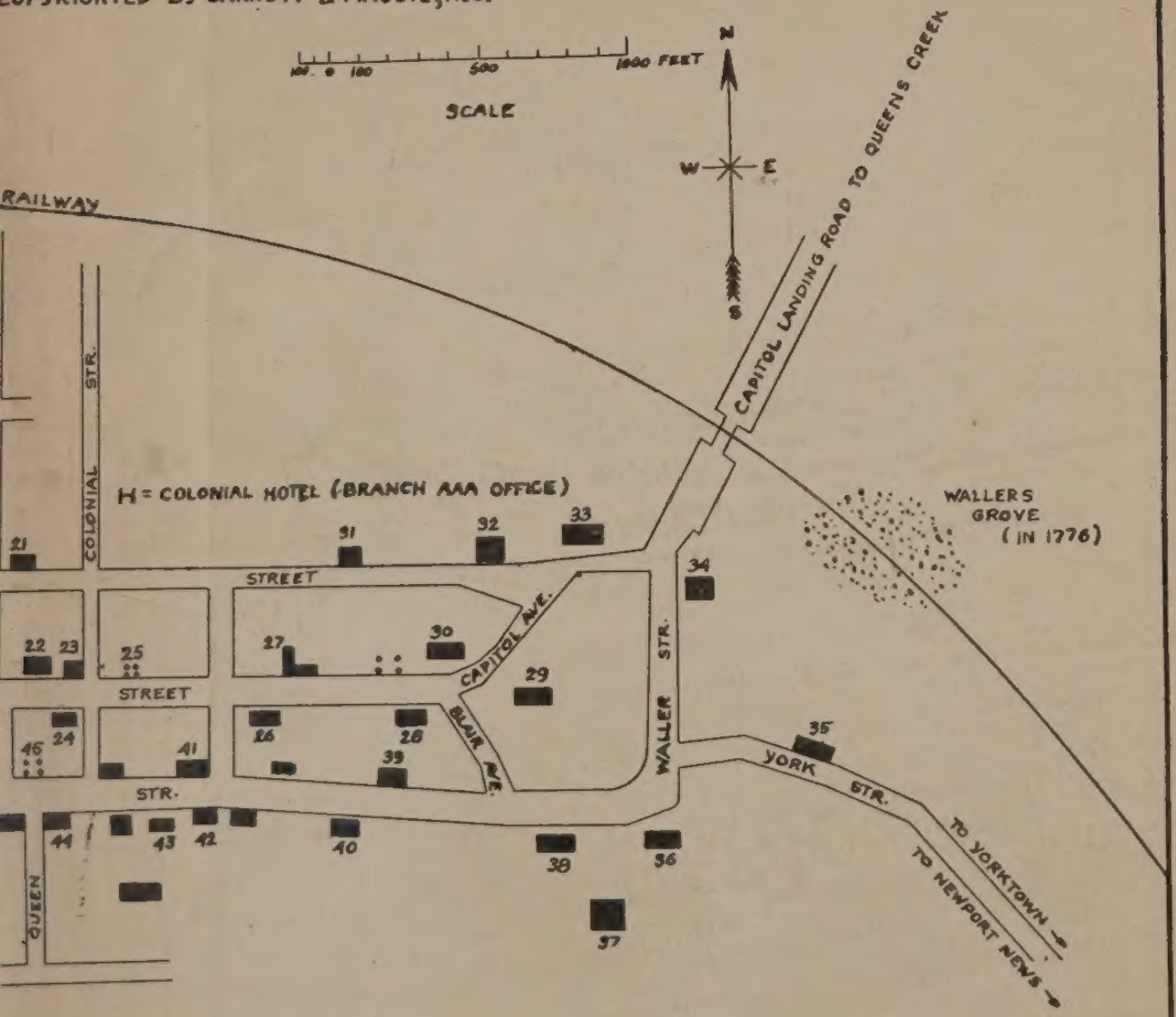

REDWOOD ORDINARY
COLONIAL PRISON
GARRETT HOUSE
ROBT. WALLER HOUSE
NICOLSON HOUSE
BENJ. WALLER HOUSE
BASSETT HALL
JAMES SEMPLE HOUSE
OLD GALT HOUSE
CHISWELL HOUSE
MERCER HOUSE
ROPER-LEE HOUSE
POWELL HOUSE
BRACKEN HOUSE
SITE MASONIC HOME
-a METHODIST CHURCH

46 COKE HOUSE
47 TAZEWELL HALL
48 POWDER HORN, 1715
49 BAPTIST CHURCH
50 COURT HOUSE, 1770
51 POST-OFFICE
52 OLD WILLIAMSBURG JAIL
53 TRAVIS HOUSE
54 JAMES GALT HOUSE
55 "RESTORATION HOUSE
56 "PULASKI CLUB"
57 MARSHALL HOUSE
58 CLOWES HOUSE
59 E. S. HOSPITAL
60 MARTHA WASH. KITCH.
60-a TENTATIVE SITE NEW COURT HOUSE

To. Elsie

From

Uncle George

Norfolk Va

Oct. 4 1930

HISTORIC VIRGINIA LANDMARKS

Sketches of One Hundred and Thirty-three

HISTORIC VIRGINIA LANDMARKS

From

Cape Henry to Richmond

By

J. LUTHER KIBLER

RICHMOND
GARRETT & MASSIE, INC.
PUBLISHERS

Copyright, 1929, by
GARRETT & MASSIE, INC.
Richmond, Virginia

First Edition, May, 1929
Second Edition, October, 1929

Printed in
the United States of America

Dedicated

to the

Thomas Nelson, Jr., Chapter

Virginia Society

Sons of the American Revolution

FOREWORD

The purpose of these 150-word Sketches is to supply, in compact, convenient form, historical information concerning outstanding Old Dominion landmarks on the famous Virginia Peninsula—the "Cradle of the Republic." Brief descriptions of colonial features of architecture are also included.

Nearly one-half of this book deals with Williamsburg, now being restored to its colonial splendor; and with Jamestown and Yorktown, includes eighty-two of the one hundred and twenty-five subjects in this collection. Besides the more important patriotic shrines, other high points of interest not so well known are also included, because they deserve a place for veneration in the popular mind. Still others, for want of space, are omitted.

Original and authoritative sources, as far as possible, have been used in compiling the history found in these Sketches. Little credence is given to tradition.

The order of arrangement followed is geographical. In Williamsburg the names of places listed are given consecutively, beginning with the College.

J. LUTHER KIBLER.

Williamsburg, Virginia,
April 26, 1929.

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HISTORIC VIRGINIA LANDMARKS

HISTORIC VIRGINIA LANDMARKS

Cape Henry Lighthouse

A lighthouse at Cape Henry was provided for by the General Assembly of Virginia in 1752, when it named seventeen men "to erect and finish a good and substantial Light-House on the Head-Land of Cape Henry." A duty of two pence per ton of the burthen of each ship clearing out of the Chesapeake was to be collected to maintain and support "the said Light-house in all time to come."

The old Cape Henry Lighthouse now standing, the first one erected, was built by the national government in 1791. It bears an A. P. V. A. tablet with this inscription:

"Near this spot landed April 26, 1607, Capt. Gabriel Archer, Hon. Geo. S. Percy, Christopher Newport, Bartholomew Gosnold, Edward Maria Wingfield and twenty-five others, who calling the place Cape Henry, planted a cross April 29, 1607. *Dei gratia Virginia condita.*"

The new lighthouse, 157 feet high, was erected in 1881.

JAMESTOWN ISLAND

The James River at Jamestown

The James River at Jamestown presents one of the many beautiful scenes along the shores of this majestic stream, called by the Indians the Powhatan. Its sister river, the broad Potomac, still bears its aboriginal name. Both have their sources near Hightown, in Highland County, Virginia.

But the "noble James" is also great in history: it bore on its bosom the three vessels—*Sarah Constant, Goodspeed, and Discovery*—to this birthplace of the Republic, where English institutions and representative government first took root on American soil, in 1607 and 1619.

Here a historic crossing of the James was made by Cornwallis and his army, in July, 1781, on their way from Williamsburg to Yorktown and surrender.

Time has left some old ruins of James City, and the tides have taken their toll of holy ground, leaving a lone cypress tree, rock-rooted in the river, as the Island's landmark in the water.

JAMESTOWN ISLAND

The Captain John Smith Monument

This memorial to the "father of Virginia" stands on Jamestown Island, the site of the first permanent English settlement in the New World, and faces the James River. The bronze statue—a heroic figure of Smith—was erected by the Society for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, in 1907. Its granite base bears the inscription: *"Vincere est vivere.* Captain John Smith, Governor of Virginia, 1608." Smith was the fourth president of the Council.

Americans visiting this sacred spot and viewing this statue of such an extraordinary man will feel their patriotism stir within them as they reflect on the services Smith rendered to England and to the world in laying the foundation of the virgin colony—The Old Dominion.

Virginians visiting Jamestown may well wonder what might have been had not Captain John Smith made his explorations, governed the infant colony, and lived to write his *True Relation of Virginia.*

JAMESTOWN ISLAND

The Pocahontas Monument

The Pocahontas Monument faces that of Captain John Smith. The beautiful bronze statue, on its granite base, elicits one's admiration. It represents the Indian maiden in expressive attitude, hurrying with outstretched hands to help save the colonists from starvation or the tomahawk. The monument bears the inscription: "1595-1617. Pocahontas. Erected by the Pocahontas Memorial Association. 1922."

Through the patient ministrations of Rev. Alexander Whittaker and the influence of Sir Thomas Dale, Pocahontas was converted to Christianity, and baptized as Rebecca. In 1614 she was married, in the Lord Delaware Church, at Jamestown, to John Rolfe, whose home was at Varina on the James.

Pocahontas has been called the heroine of the first American romance. Her real name was Matoaka. She died in England, leaving one son, Thomas, who became the ward of his uncle, Henry Rolfe. Among the descendants of Pocahontas are the Blands, Bollings, Flemings, Randolphs, and Tuckers.

JAMESTOWN ISLAND

The Robert Hunt Shrine

The Robert Hunt Shrine, consecrated June 15, 1922, is a memorial to the first English minister at Jamestown. It was built of old brick taken from some old ruins. In structural form and historical significance this shrine is unique among American monuments. Impressive memorial services are held here every year.

On the reverse side of this inspiring memorial is the inscription: "This shrine is erected by the Colonial Dames of America in Virginia, to commemorate the earliest celebration of the Holy Communion in the first permanent English Settlement in America, June 11, 1607."

Within the three-sided structure (the front being open) is the large, bronze relief tablet—an offering from three Virginia dioceses—representing this solemn service held under the sail of a ship, supported by trees.

The inscription thereon is a sincere tribute by the colonists to their minister, "An honest, religious, and courageous Divine," attesting that "all loved him for his exceeding goodness."

JAMESTOWN ISLAND

The House of Burgesses Monument

The House of Burgesses Monument bears this inscription: "In honor of the First General Assembly of Virginia, July 30, 1619. The Beginning of Representative Government in the Colonies of England and laid the Foundation of the Liberties of America." The memorial also honors Sir George Yeardley, Governor-General; Sir Edwin Sandys, Treasurer, and Henry Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, for obtaining, November 18, 1618, the ordinance and constitution establishing the House of Burgesses. The names of the councilors, of the eleven "hundreds" and the twenty-two burgesses are inscribed on the monument.

The colonial legislature at "James Citty" included the governor, his council, and the burgesses, which all met together until 1680; but the House of Burgesses desired to meet separately already in 1658.

The legislature was first called The General Assembly (1619-1632); then it was styled The Grand Assembly (1632-1680); and ever since it has been known as The General Assembly.

JAMESTOWN ISLAND

The Old Church Tower

The ruined church tower is the only structure besides several chimneys left standing at Jamestown after Bacon's Rebellion. Richard Lawrence is believed to have fired the sacred edifice September 19, 1676, when Bacon and his followers burned Jamestown to prevent the return of the Governor, Sir William Berkeley.

The church destroyed was the fourth house of worship and the first brick church erected at Jamestown, about 1639.

The rebuilt church was used until about 1758—afterwards becoming a ruin. The old tower, ever since, has stood empty and silent as a grim and mute reminder of the first struggle for American liberty.

This ruined tower is one of America's most precious historical shrines, and now stands—lone sentinel of the past—at the very threshold of the restored Jamestown Memorial Church which, on May 11, 1907, became the property of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

JAMESTOWN ISLAND

Foundations of the Old State House

The old State House foundation was unearthed in 1903 by Samuel H. Yonge, after constructing the protective sea wall. Here are foundations also of four other buildings—all joined in one continuous block: The Country House, near the river, and the three Philip Ludwell houses. The State House foundation at the east end, is seventy by twenty feet; all the others are forty feet square. The cellar in one of the Ludwell houses was paved with brick. The walls of the State House were two feet thick.

The first State House (1642) burned about 1656, and fire destroyed the next one about 1660. Another one, bought or built about 1665, stood here until Bacon's Rebellion.

The State House rebuilt on this foundation by Colonel Ludwell (1686) was destroyed by fire in 1698. The following April, Williamsburg became the new capital of Virginia.

JAMESTOWN ISLAND

Tombs of Dr. James Blair and His Wife

The tombs of Dr. James Blair and his wife were originally five inches apart, and are now five feet apart. They were practically destroyed by the growing sycamore as it embraced, crushed, and separated the gravestones. In 1856, the top iron-stone slab on Mrs. Blair's tomb, imbedded in the trunk of the tree, was held three feet above the ground.

Dr. Blair was commissary of the Bishop of London, and the first president of William and Mary College (1729). Sent to Virginia as a missionary (1685), he was rector of Henrico Parish, living at Varina; minister at Jamestown (1694), and rector of Bruton Parish Church (1710). He wrote 117 discourses on Christ's sermon on the Mount. He died in 1743.

Dr. Blair's wife was Sarah Harrison, daughter of Colonel Benjamin Harrison. They had no children. These tombs, now practically restored, were erected by their nephew, Hon. John Blair, in 1752.

JAMESTOWN ISLAND

The Memorial Church

The Memorial Church at Jamestown is a shrine erected on the foundation of the first brick church built on the Island, 1639, and which was burned in Bacon's Rebellion. The old church tower stands at the entrance. The brick house of worship, erected after the Bacon uprising, was used until 1758.

The Memorial Church was presented to the A. P. V. A. by the Colonial Dames in Virginia, May 11, 1907. The first three Jamestown churches were wooden structures. Here may be seen foundation ruins of the Argall Church, where the House of Burgesses met in 1619, Pocahontas was married in the Lord Delaware Church, in 1614.

On the walls of the present church are memorial tablets, honoring the "Adventurers in England and the ancient plantation in Virginia," the Jamestown colonial governors, Bruton Parish Church, and the famous historical characters: Smith, Pocahontas, Chanco, Lord Delaware, Claiborne, Rolfe, and Daniel Gookin.

JAMESTOWN ISLAND

Ruins of the Jaquelin-Ambler House

The Jaquelin-Ambler House is one of only two houses standing at the "Cradle of the Republic" in 1807. The site was perhaps originally included in Sir Francis Wyatt's grant of 1623, in "New Towne"—that portion of "James Citty" planned by Governor Wyatt, surveyed by William Claiborne, and built up after the Indian massacre of 1622. Subsequent owners were William Sherwood and John Page.

The property later passed to Edward Jaquelin, of Jamestown, whose daughter, Elizabeth, married Richard Ambler, of Yorktown. They had three sons: John, Edward, and Jaquelin. John Ambler, son of Edward Ambler, in 1782 inherited Jamestown Island.

The dimensions of this old mansion are fifty-seven by forty feet, with foundation walls thirty inches and partition walls eighteen inches thick. Fire has several times destroyed the Jaquelin-Ambler mansion. The house was burned during the Civil War; rebuilt, fire again destroyed it in 1896, leaving the present stately ruins.

JAMESTOWN ISLAND

Lower Jamestown Island

Lower Jamestown Island, as private property, is not open to the tourist public; but here, like a buried city, lies much of geographical and historical interest. So far as public knowledge and interest is concerned, this forest, field and swamp region of James Island is unimportant; but it is part of the "Cradle of the Republic."

The southern shore is being rapidly washed away. The oldest tree on the island, a spring-fed pond, anciently called Tucker's Hole, and a Civil War fort, twenty-five feet high, all arouse one's wonderment.

Here are many marks of the early homes of Johnson, Fairfax, Travis, and others who occupied this section—now only grazing land, hunting-ground and wilderness.

The Travis burying-ground has been almost obliterated by the elements and the vandalism of man. Only three great iron-stone tombstones remain—a tragic sight on the very land where the American Republic had its birth. Oh, Virginians!

JAMESTOWN ISLAND

The National Jamestown Monument

A. D. 1607 – A. D. 1907

This imposing granite memorial bears on its four sides the following significant inscriptions:

"JAMESTOWN the First Permanent Colony of the English People, the Birthplace of Virginia and of the United States, May 13, 1607.

"Lastly and Chiefly the Way to Prosper and Achieve good Success is to make yourselves all of one mind for the good of your country and your own and to serve and fear God the Giver of all Goodness, for every Plantation which our Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted out."—Advice of the London Company for Virginia to the Colony, 1606.

"REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT in America began in the First House of Burgesses Assembled here July 30, 1619.

"VIRGINIA COMPANY of London Chartered April 10th, 1606 Founded Jamestown and Sustained Virginia 1607-1624.

"This MONUMENT was erected by the United States A. D. 1907 to commemorate the Three Hundredth Anniversary of the Settlement here."

The City of Williamsburg

Williamsburg was first called Middle Plantation. In 1632 Dr. John Pott patented 1,200 acres on the ridge midway between the James and the York. In 1633-34 a palisade against the Indians was erected near settlements, made between two tributary creeks of these two rivers. Among the early settlers were Henry Tyler, ancestor of President Tyler, Sir Richard Kemp, Sir Thomas Ludwell, and Otho Thorpe.

In 1699 the General Assembly at Jamestown renamed Middle Plantation the "city of Williamsburg" as the new colonial capital, and authorized "the building the Capitol." Theodorick Bland surveyed 220 acres for the city. The "old horse path" became Duke of Gloucester Street, three-fourths of a mile long.

The first trustees for building Williamsburg were: Governor Nicholson, Edmund Jennings, Philip Ludwell, Esq., Thomas Ballard, Lewis Burwell, Philip Ludwell, Jr., John Page, Henry Tyler, James Whaley, and Benjamin Harrison, Jr.

Williamsburg was chartered as a city in 1722.

WILLIAMSBURG

The College of William and Mary

West End Duke of Gloucester Street

The College of William and Mary, founded 1690-1693, by Dr. James Blair, is the second oldest college in the United States. Dr. Blair was the first president, 1729-1743. Rev. William Stith, historian, and Bishop James Madison were two other noted presidents during the colonial era.

The Wren Building (1694), three times burned, was each time restored with some alterations in its architecture. In 1700-1704, the college was also the Virginia capitol. Brafferton Indian School and The President's House are two other original buildings of William and Mary.

In 1779 the college became a university, and in 1906 it became a State institution. In 1919 Dr. Julian A. C. Chandler succeeded Dr. Lyon G. Tyler, who was preceded by Colonel Benjamin S. Ewell (1854-1888) as president.

In 1929 the Wren Building was restored to its former style of architecture, and made absolutely fireproof. This restoration cost $400,000.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Chapel of William and Mary College

The College Chapel was built in 1729-1732, by Henry Carey, builder of Brafferton Hall. It forms the left wing of the Christopher Wren Building. The Chapel was opened June 28, 1732, when President Blair spoke from the Scripture of Proverbs 22:6.

Following two fires, the original architecture was changed. On the walls of the Chapel, when it was dismantled for restoration, in 1928, were ten portraits of famous men, and six memorial tablets—the largest in honor of Sir John Randolph.

Beneath the floor of the College Chapel lie buried Norborne Berkeley, Baron de Botetourt, whose tomb was disturbed during the Civil War; Sir John Randolph, and his sons John (the Tory) and Peyton (the Patriot), and Bishop James Madison. Bishop Madison, a cousin of President Madison, was president of the College from 1777 till 1812.

In recent years, the Chapel had been used also as a classroom.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Brafferton Building

On the College Campus

The Brafferton Building, a prototype of the President's House, but smaller, was erected at William and Mary College in 1723, as the first permanent Indian school in America, established in 1720 through the generosity of Sir Robert Boyle, an English scientist, of Yorkshire, and supported by rents from his estate. After the Revolution, Rev. Bilby Porteus, Bishop of London, whose father had lived in Virginia, brought suit to recover the fund from further use in educating Indian youths in Virginia; and it was diverted for the education of negroes in the West Indies.

Brafferton Hall once housed the grammar school; and the custodian of the college occupied the building in 1881-1888. It is now a college administration building.

Nevertheless, Brafferton Hall is a monument to the zeal of the English churchmen of the early colonial period, who were concerned about the welfare of the Indian race in America.

WILLIAMSBURG

The President's House

On the College Campus

The President's House was the last of the first group of three buildings erected for "The College of William and Mary in Virginia." The foundation was begun July 31, 1732, when the first five brick were laid by President Blair, Rev. William Dawson, Joshua Fry, Rev. William Stith, and Rev. John Fox, usher of the college. Henry Carey, who had erected Brafferton Hall, was the builder. It is constructed with glazed-end brick.

Cornwallis drove President Madison and his family out of the house and used it as his headquarters in 1781. It was accidentally burned while French troops occupied it after the Yorktown surrender. Louis XVI restored the building at his personal expense.

Nineteen presidents of William and Mary have lived in The President's House. Twelve of them, including Bishops James Madison and John Johns, were ministers. Rev. John Camm, one of the twelve, was the John Alden of Virginia.

Photo copyright. D. N. Davidson

Site of the Old Capitol at Williamsburg

Photo by Clyde Holmes

Bassett Hall
Residence Vice-President John Tyler, 1841

Photo by Clyde Holmes

The Brafferton Building
William and Mary College

WILLIAMSBURG

The Library of William and Mary College

On the College Campus

The Library of William and Mary College originally contained about 8,000 volumes, about one-half of which were theological books, as the college once had a school of divinity. It included President Blair's library which he had bequeathed to the college, and also some scientific books donated by Bishop Madison. But all, except a few volumes, were destroyed in the fire of 1859.

The Library was then housed in the north wing, and later in the south end of the main college building, until the present Library Building was erected in 1908.

The Library at present has about 65,000 volumes. The large collection of portraits, including over a hundred on the walls, is one of the finest in the State.

In 1929 the Library Building was greatly increased in size, giving it stack-room for 300,000 books and a capacity for 450 readers.

Many pilgrims to Williamsburg shrines visit the College Library.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Statue of Lord Botetourt

College Campus

The Statue of Lord Botetourt stands on the campus of William and Mary College. It was originally erected in front of the capitol building. Defaced by reckless boys during the Revolutionary War, it was removed, in 1797, to the College. During the Civil War, it was protected at the Eastern State Hospital. After the Wren Building is restored, it will be placed in the museum room of that historic structure.

The marble statue is a monument to Virginia's best beloved colonial governor, Norborne Berkeley, Baron de Botetourt, the only one so honored. Botetourt arrived in Virginia October 21, 1768. He died October 15, 1770.

"The General Assembly of Virginia on the XX. day of July, Ann. Dom: M.D.CC.LXXI resolved with one united voice to erect this statue to his lordship's memory."

The laudatory inscription thereon begins: "America! Behold vour Friend!" The sculptor's mark on the pedestal is: "Richard Haywood London MDCCLXXIII."

WILLIAMSBURG

The Dudley Digges House

Prince George and Boundary Streets

The Dudley Digges House was the home of the prominent Revolutionary patriot, Dudley Digges. Here French soldiers were quartered after Cornwallis's surrender.

Dudley Digges was the great-great-grandson of Governor Edward Digges, of historic Bellfield, in York County. His father was Cole Digges, who lived in the quaint Digges House in Yorktown.

Dudley Digges served in the House of Burgesses (1752-1772), was a member of several Revolutionary committees and conventions, and was president of the Court of Directors of the Eastern State Hospital at the time of his death, in 1790.

The Dudley Digges House is a Dutch colonial frame building. Originally, it was a four-room dwelling, but its size has been doubled by modern improvements.

This old colonial house is now called Brown Hall—a home for Methodist girls attending William and Mary College, and secured for the church through Mr. Lee Britt, a direct descendant of Dudley Digges.

WILLIAMSBURG

Wheatland

North Henry Street

Wheatland, in northwest Williamsburg, was the home of the early Tylers. On January 7, 1652, Henry Tyler, emigrant, patented 254 acres at Middle Plantation. Of this tract seventy-four acres were sold to the colony for the seat of the Governor's House (1705-1710).

The emigrant Tyler's estate descended to his son Henry, whose son Henry Tyler, III, on November 20, 1750, conveyed 180 acres with all houses to John Amson, Doctor of Physic, for £200.

The present Wheatland, built by William Holt, in 1781, stands on this Amson acreage. Its exterior is thoroughly modernized; but the reception hall and marble mantels attest the antiquity of the handsome interior.

Tradition says that from the front portal of this old home Spotswood and his "knights" rode out of Williamsburg on their famous expedition to the Blue Ridge.

Dr. Tyler's references to Wheatland identify this place as being on the old Tyler grant.

WILLIAMSBURG

The John Blair House

325 West Duke of Gloucester Street

The John Blair House was the home of John Blair, Jr., son of John Blair, president of the Virginia Council, and grandson of Archibald Blair, brother of Dr. James Blair, founder of William and Mary College. John Blair, Jr. (1732-1800) was a member of the Federal Convention, and signed the Constitution. Washington appointed him a Justice of the United States Supreme Court. His daughter, Mary Blair, married Robert Andrews, a professor at William and Mary; and in 1790 the ownership of this house passed to Professor Andrews. At one time, the house had a divided ownership between two parties.

The John Blair House was also the home of John Marshall while a student at William and Mary College.

The long, story-and-a-half building, with two stout chimneys and two front doors, is typically colonial. The large, stone steps, tradition says, were brought from England.

The house was restored in 1929.

WILLIAMSBURG

Bruton Parish Church

Duke of Gloucester Street

Bruton Parish Church is the oldest Episcopal church *in continuous use* in the United States, and one of the most famous historical shrines in America.

The first brick church, erected 1681-1683 (on land donated by Colonel John Page, and consecrated January 6, 1684), was rebuilt and enlarged in 1715, when it became the court church of the colony.

In 1839 the interior was so altered as to remove all reminders of royalty. In 1905-'06 it was restored to the original plan.

Bruton parish, formed in 1674, by combining three parishes into one, was named after Sir William Berkeley's birthplace in London. The first rector of Bruton Church was Rev. Rowland Jones, an ancestor of Martha Washington.

The church possesses three historic silver communion services; also a parish register dating from 1632. Bruton Parish Church, a sanctuary thrice holy —for God and Home and Country—is visited by thousands every year.

WILLIAMSBURG

The George Wythe House

On Palace Green

The George Wythe House was built in 1755 by Richard Taliaferro, father-in-law of George Wythe. Here Wythe lived (1779-1789) as the first professor of law in the United States, and the teacher, at William and Mary College, of Jefferson, Marshall, Monroe, Edmund Randolph, and Henry Clay.

George Wythe was the author of Virginia's first constitution, including the famous Bill of Rights, adopted June 29, 1776. He was a member of the Federal Convention, but failed to sign the Constitution. Wythe was also sole chancellor of the general court of Virginia for twenty years. Because of his just decisions, he was called the American Aristides.

The Wythe House was Washington's headquarters in 1781.

In Helen Glasgow's *Voice of the People* it was the home of Judge Burwell Bassett, a nephew of Martha Washington.

Since its restoration in 1927, the Wythe House has been the parish house of Bruton Church.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Dinwiddie–Saunders House

On Palace Green

The Dinwiddie-Saunders House was Governor Dinwiddie's temporary residence, 1751-1752, while the Governor's House, only a few yards away, was being enlarged. Dinwiddie wrote that the house had "three rooms and an attic."

Robert Dinwiddie, lieutenant-governor of Virginia (1751-1758), was a member of the Ohio Company. He sent George Washington on his famous mission to the Ohio Valley—the first step leading to Braddock's defeat, and the French and Indian War.

This house, when occupied by Dinwiddie, was a small, brick building, the home afterwards of Robert Carter Nicholas, treasurer of the colony (1757-1777). It was enlarged by Robert Saunders, Jr., president of William and Mary College (1846-1848), who added the eight-foot wooden front section and the large, white-pillared portico. The increased dimensions of the house are forty-nine by thirty-two feet.

In April, 1929, restoration workmen unearthed a brick driveway in front of the house.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Mattey School

On the Site of the Governor's Palace

The Matthew Whaley Free School, established in 1706, was named in honor of the only child of James and Mary Whaley, who died in 1705, at the age of nine years.

Mrs. Whaley died in London in 1742, leaving a legacy of about £500 as an endowment for "Eternalising Mattey's School by the name of Mattey's School forever."

Refusal of the executor to pay the money to the wardens of Bruton parish, having charge of the school, resulted in a suit in an English chancery court, which was not settled until 1867, when about $8,000 was received and a new building was erected in 1870, under authority of William and Mary College, on the site of the colonial Governor's Palace. Some brick from the old Palace ruins were used in the present building.

Mattey's School will be perpetuated in connection with the new $400,000 restoration school plant, in 1929-1930.

WILLIAMSBURG

Site of the Governor's Palace

Facing South on Palace Green

The Site of the Colonial Governor's Palace is marked by a small obelisk covered with historical inscriptions, and erected by Mrs. Letitia Tyler Semple, daughter of President Tyler.

The Governor's House was built in 1705-1710, during the administrations of Nott and Spotswood. It was sixty-eight by seventy-four feet. The Palace office building, guard-house, the terraced garden, deer park and artificial lake all occupied a portion of the land originally patented January 7, 1652, by Henry Tyler, emigrant. Just one hundred years later came Dinwiddie, while the residence was undergoing renovation.

Following the hated Lord Dunmore, Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson occupied the mansion in the Revolution. It was accidentally burned by American troops occupying it after Cornwallis's surrender.

Since 1870, the Palace site has been occupied by the historic, rebuilt Mattey free school, which is being removed for rebuilding "his Majesty's Governor's House," in the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Governor John Page House

231 Palace Green

The Governor John Page House is a small, typical old-fashioned residence.

The quaint dwelling was the town house of Governor John Page, whose home was at Rosewell, in Gloucester County, and who was governor of Virginia from 1802 to 1805. Page and Jefferson were life-long friends.

Here lived the widow Page and her daughter, Lucy, who married Robert Saunders, of the Dinwiddie-Saunders House.

A mysterious romance seems to be associated with the Page House. An inscription scratched on a windowpane, with a diamond ring, reads: "S. B. 1796 Nov. 23 O fatal day." Through all the years since then, "O fatal day" has kept its secret—perhaps of a heart tragedy in some young life. "A Boush 1734" is a second inscription on another windowpane.

The John Page House, unfortunately, has been called the Audrey House, which name substitutes a character in fiction for two centuries of history!

WILLIAMSBURG

Site of the First Theatre in America

Palace Green and Nicholson Street

The Site of the First Theatre in America is on the premises of the present Tucker House. In 1716 William Levingston, a New Kent County merchant, built a Play House here, and contracted with Charles Stagg, a dancing master, to conduct the theatre. Stagg kept the Play House open until his death, in 1735-36.

But Levingston defaulted on his 500-year lease from Archibald Blair. George Gilmer acquired right and title to the property from John Blair, executor of his father's estate, for £155. He sold the Play House to the City of Williamsburg for a "Town House"—"being the lots and land whereon the Bowling Green formerly was and Dwelling house and kitchen of William Levingston and the house called the Play house," for £50. The thirty-one shareholders in the first theatre agreed, in writing, to this conveyance.

A second theatre, the Hallam Playhouse, was built on Waller Street about 1751.

WILLIAMSBURG

The St. George Tucker House

Palace Green and Nicholson Street

The Tucker House was the home of St. George Tucker, second professor of law at William and Mary College. Tucker was the author of the first text book on law written by a college professor, and was called the American Blackstone. His son, Henry St. George Tucker, was president of the Virginia Supreme Court. Another son, Nathaniel Beverly Tucker, was a professor at William and Mary College. His great-grandson, Hon. George P. Coleman, now owns the Tucker homestead.

Here lived also Edmund Randolph, and John Randolph of Roanoke, in his boyhood. Here also the first Christmas tree in Williamsburg was set up, in 1848.

The Tucker House was La Fayette's headquarters in 1781.

This famous house is a large, frame residence, in four sections, 128 feet long. Its history dates from 1716, when William Levingston had a residence, a theatre, and a bowling alley on the site of this home of great men.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Archibald Blair House

105 West Nicholson Street

The Archibald Blair House, facing the colonial courthouse, was built prior to 1718. In 1716 the trustees for building the city of Williamsburg sold Archibald Blair four lots at this location, requiring him to build thereon within twenty-four months. This colonial residence was still in the Blair family when President James Madison, of the College, lived here in 1782-1784.

Here lived also Rev. James Henderson, a professor in William and Mary College, who in 1795 married Jane Blair, daughter of John Blair, Jr. Here, too, Bishop Brown was born.

Before the War Between the States, Jacob C. Sheldon owned the property for many years. One of the college students boarding with Sheldon and Philip Montague Thompson, of Culpeper, Virginia, who afterwards purchased the place and repaired the house. From Thompson it passed to Miss Lottie Garrett, and was the home of Dr. Van Garrett when purchased by the "Restoration."

WILLIAMSBURG

The Randolph–Peachy House

105 East Nicholson Street

The Randolph-Peachy House was the home of Peyton Randolph, President of the First Continental Congress. Until 1929, another house, on Francis Street, had been designated for years as the home of the great colonial statesman. But York County court records show conclusively that the Old Peachy House, dating from about 1716, was the "dwelling-house" of Peyton Randolph.

Here his widow, "Aunt Betty" Randolph, had the honor of entertaining Count Rochambeau in 1781.

Here Dr. Thomas Griffin Peachy entertained General La Fayette in 1824. A great throng assembled at the public reception held to welcome America's greatest foreign friend. The aged marquis addressed the people assembled on the Courthouse Green. Here the beaux and belles of Williamsburg, in compliment to La Fayette, danced *all night.*

This house, sixty-seven feet long, is "stock-built." Except in the spacious hall, heart pine and black walnut paneling, with heavy, crown moulding, extends throughout to the ceiling.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Griffin House

Nicholson and Queen Streets

The Griffin House was the home of Cyrus Griffin, the last president of the Continental Congress (1788). President Washington appointed him the first judge of the United States District Court of Virginia. He was also a Federalist member of Congress.

Judge Griffin was a descendant of Thomas Griffin, emigrant, about 1651. He was educated in England, and married Lady Christina, daughter of John Stuart, sixth Earl of Traquair, of Scotland. In the Griffin House may be seen today a large, marble Traquair hall-shelf, brought by the Griffins from Scotland.

The house is built in the quaint, Dutch colonial style of architecture. It is a good-sized dwelling, with a modern addition, in a yard bordered by noble, monarch-like trees.

Here also William Wirt lived when he wrote *The British Spy*. Wirt was the anti-Masonic candidate for president in 1832.

The Coleman family has owned this property since the Civil War period.

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Office of the Secretary of the Colony, Williamsburg

Photo copyright. D. N. Davidson

The Dinwiddie-Saunders House, Williamsburg

Photo by Clyde Holmes

Tazewell Hall, Williamsburg
Home of Sir John Randolph

WILLIAMSBURG

The Paradise House

East Duke of Gloucester Street

The Paradise House, with many interesting historical associations, is a substantial two-story brick structure, built in Flemish bond, and is sixty feet long. It has the noteworthy distinction of being a connecting link between Virginia history and English literature. It was the residence, in 1788-89, of John Paradise, born at Salonica, in Asia Minor, where his father, Peter Paradise, was British consul.

John Paradise and Dr. Samuel Johnson, of English dictionary fame, were friends, and members of the same literary club in London. While living in London, Paradise married Lucy Ludwell, daughter of Philip Ludwell, of Green Spring, near Williamsburg. Their daughter, Lucy Paradise, married Count Antonio Barziza, of Venice. Their grandson, Philip I. Barziza, came to Williamsburg about 1815. Here he married Cecilia Belette. The youngest of Barziza, Junior's family of ten children was named Decimus Ultimus.

La Fayette, guest of James Lee, dined at the Paradise House in 1824.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Barlow House

East Duke of Gloucester Street

The Barlow House is one of the oldest houses in Williamsburg. The architecture is so typical of "Old Virginia" that the dwelling was once described as a place "where the charm of colonial days still lingers." The restoration of this colonial four-room story-and-a-half dormer-windowed cottage by using much new, best quality material, still preserves this charm with all its new attractiveness.

When the Barlow House was built is a question; but from old documents still preserved here the names of several successive owners are known: Gabriel Boccairodo, George Bray, Edward Teagle, John Augustine De Neufville, and John Holdsworth Barlow, son-in-law of De Neufville.

A precious heirloom is cherished by the present life tenant of the Barlow House, whose grandmother, as Miss Henriette Fayette De Neufville, met General La Fayette at the Paradise House in 1824, when he gave her (Miss Fayette) an elegant silk badge bearing his name, portrait, and a motto.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Unicorn's Horn

East Duke of Gloucester Street

The Unicorn's Horn, an apothecary shop in 1752, is the only commercial building of brick construction standing among the high places of antiquity in Williamsburg today. The history of the old shop is almost unique. In recent years it has been facetiously called the Red Lion, after a small frame tavern that once stood in the eastern part of Williamsburg.

The Unicorn's Horn, trustworthy tradition says, has been also a grocery store, restaurant, barber shop, saloon, print shop, Chinese laundry, and an auto repair shop.

The building measures thirty-six-nine by twenty-four-nine. The foundation walls are nineteen inches and the upper walls fifteen inches thick. The floor, in the main story above the big basement, is in two sections, the rear half being like a platform, twenty-four inches higher than the front portion.

The Rockefeller restoration brought this old shop into the foreground. Its costly renovation, in 1929, made it an interesting landmark.

WILLIAMSBURG

Site of the First Printing Office

East Duke of Gloucester Street

The Site of the First Printing Office in the South is immediately west of the ruined basement walls of a modern store building, which burned here in 1921. The old printing office burned in March, 1896. An iron railing now indicates the location.

Here William Parks established the first printing office south of the Potomac, in 1730.

The General Assembly paid Parks a salary for printing the Laws of Virginia: in 1732, £120; in 1738, £200; in 1742, £230; in 1744, £280 yearly, until his death, in 1750.

By 1737 Parks had moved his entire plant from Annapolis, Maryland, to Williamsburg.

In 1736 he began publication of the now historic *Virginia Gazette,* the first newspaper to publish the full text of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1749 he printed Stith's history of Virginia.

About 1744 Parks established a paper mill in Williamsburg. His executor sold it for ninety-six pounds three shillings ninepence.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Richard Bland House

406 East Duke of Gloucester Street

The Richard Bland House was the birthplace, in 1710, of Richard Bland, "The Great Virginia Patriot," who was "the first to announce in a formal pamphlet that England and the American Colonies were Co-ordinate kingdoms under a Common Crown, 1764." Bland was master of all matters pertaining to colonial affairs, and, therefore, was called "The Virginia Antiquary." He was a brother-in-law of Benjamin Harrison, the Signer.

Richard Bland, Sr. sold the place in 1716 to "Honorable Nathaniel Harrison, Esqr." It was inherited by Benjamin Harrison, who sold it, in 1738, to Henry Wetherburn, keeper of the Raleigh Tavern. The inventory of Wetherburn's property, made in 1760, gives particular names and contents for all the nine rooms in the house: the Bullhead Room, Mr. Page's Room, etc. The building is seventy-seven feet long.

This outstanding colonial residence, in 1761-1772, was the town house of Councillor Robert Carter, of Nomini Hall.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Raleigh Tavern

431 East Duke of Gloucester Street

The Raleigh Tavern, Virginia's "Cradle of Liberty," was destroyed by fire in 1859. The site was afterwards long occupied by two store buildings, razed in 1928 when the foundations were excavated. The historic building was restored in 1929. It is built in the form of a right-angled triangle, with nineteen front dormer windows.

It was first erected before 1735, when Dr. Archibald Blair owned it. Henry Wetherburn, living near by, at the Richard Bland House, was the keeper many years.

Raleigh Tavern was the rendezvous of leading patriots who opposed the oppressive policy of the British Crown, and when Dunmore dissolved the House of Burgesses at the Capitol, the burgesses promptly retired to the Raleigh Tavern and continued their deliberations.

Here Thomas Jefferson danced with his "Fair Belinda"—Rebecca Burwell, of Gloucester County. Here William and Mary students organized the first Phi Beta Kappa society in America, December 5, 1776.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Vest House

468 East Duke of Gloucester Street

The Vest House is one of the historical landmarks of the Revolution. In September, 1781, La Fayette's military staff was entertained here. During the Peninsula campaign in 1862, the Vest House was the headquarters first, of General Johnston, then of General McClellan.

This three-story mansion-like residence is the largest brick dwelling in Williamsburg. It was built in two sections at different dates, but perfectly joined together, making one complete house. The walls are twenty inches thick. The newer, eastern part, was erected by William W. West, who furnished the house with nine fine marble mantels.

The stairways, doors and other interior woodwork are fine examples of architectural design. The lower hall is thirty-three by twenty-one feet; the ceilings are ten feet six.

The front wall of the house is overgrown with Boston ivy. A heavy, brick wall, over four feet high and fifty yards long, borders the front of the spacious yard.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Site of the Colonial Capitol

East End Duke of Gloucester Street

The Site of the Colonial Capitol shows the ruined foundations excavated in 1928 (for the restoration of the famous statehouse) after they had been buried about fifty years. In 1881 the temporary track of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway extended across one side of these grounds.

The capitol was begun in 1701, and completed in 1705. It was built on "475 foot square of land..... for the general assemblies and courts to be held and kept in." The ground plan of the structure was an H.

The eastern side was occupied by the House of Burgesses and the western side by the Governor's Council and the General Court, both being identical in personnel.

About 1747 the capitol was burned, and an effort, which almost succeeded, was made to remove it to the Pamunkey River. It was rebuilt in 1748-1753, and vacated in 1780, after Richmond was made the State capital.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Old Capitol Monument

East End Duke of Gloucester Street

The granite monument, on the site of the first capitol building, bears this memorable bronze tablet inscription:

"Here Patrick Henry First Kindled the Flames of Revolution by his Resolutions and Speech against the Stamp Act May 29-30, 1765.

"Here, March 12, 1773, Dabney Carr offered and the Convention of Virginia Unanimously Adopted the Resolutions to Appoint A Committee to Correspond with Similar Committees in the other Colonies; The First Step taken towards the Union of the States.

"Here, May 15, 1776, the Convention of Virginia through Resolutions, drafted by Edmund Pendleton, offered by Thomas Nelson, Jr. advocated by Patrick Henry, Unanimously Called on Congress to Declare the Colonies Free and Independent States.

"Here June 12, 1776, was Adopted by the Convention the Immortal Work of George Mason, The Declaration of Rights; and on June 29, 1776, the First Written Constitution of a Free and Independent State ever Framed."

WILLIAMSBURG

Office of the Secretary of the Colony

Near the Old Capitol Site

The old Office of the Secretary of State is of present-day importance as being the only administrative colonial government building standing in Williamsburg, and therefore the oldest in the State.

It served the early builders of the Commonwealth in association with the General Assembly, composed of the House of Burgesses and the Governor's Council, which convened in the colonial capitol near by.

It was built some time after the capital was moved, in 1699, from Jamestown to Middle Plantation. There is a puzzling lack of records relating to its construction. The Secretary of State issued land patents; so the building became, largely, a land grant office.

The strongly-built brick structure has one large central room, nearly square, and a smaller one at each end. In more recent times a large, frame building was joined to the one-time office, and for many years it has been a private residence.

WILLIAMSBURG

Redwood Ordinary

Nicholson Street, East

Redwood Ordinary is one of the oldest buildings in Williamsburg. In 1928 it was restored by the owner—except that the beautiful antique paneling, removed years ago, could not be replaced. While the house was once being renovated, a foreign "pilgrim" offered to pay the expense of repair in exchange for the paneling! Only two or three panels were left—these remain as they were originally.

The house has six rooms: two each in basement, main story and dormer story, with halls and stairways; all well appointed, making the house an attractive residence.

In 1708 John Redwood conveyed the property, by deed of lease, to Philip Ludwell, of Green Spring, for one whole year for £150 of lawful money.

Redwood was once the colony jailor at the historic Public Gaol a short distance from his "ordinary," having been named by the General Assembly, as "the most fit man for the place."

WILLIAMSBURG

The Old Colonial Prison

Nicholson Street, East

The Old "Public Gaol," built in 1705, for the General Court, and once described as "a mild, sweet prison," is a most interesting old landmark. The old prison, thirty by twenty feet, originally had a yard for prisoners, adjoining the southeast corner. All doors have heavy wooden, iron-bound locks. The upper story was the home of the jailor.

In 1718, thirteen of Blackbeard's pirates were imprisoned here before they were hanged on trees out on Capitol Landing Road. But Blackbeard himself *never saw Williamsburg,* tradition to the contrary notwithstanding. In 1748, "the two Rooms at the East End of the now Public Gaol" were appropriated for the "safekeeping of Debtors;" and the west end for criminals. In 1779, Governor Hamilton, of Detroit, made a prisoner at Vincennes, by General George Rogers Clark, was put in irons in this jail. In 1927 many Clark "pilgrims" to Williamsburg visited this famous "gaol."

WILLIAMSBURG

The Garrett House

North of Capitol Site

The Garrett House, the home of four generations of the Garrett family, is architecturally, one of the most beautiful and inviting old homes in Williamsburg. The house, ninety-seven feet long, has a large, two-and-a-half-story central portion, and at each end a smaller one-and-a-half-story section. The western part was built by John Coke, goldsmith, emigrant in 1724, and ancestor of Senator Richard Coke, of Texas.

In the old Garrett parlor is believed to be the first wall paper brought to Williamsburg.

This charming old colonial home was the first frame residence renewed in the restoration movement, when in 1927-28 the whole exterior was renovated with a new foundation, cypress lumber, asbestos shingles, copper fittings—and painted. Except three rooms stored with antique furniture, the interior was also renewed. In the Coke Hall is a Chinese Chippendale stairway. The wide Garrett hall is spanned by a great keystone arch.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Robert Waller House

Waller and Nicholson Streets

The Robert Waller House was the home of Dr. Robert Waller, son of Judge Benjamin Waller, the Revolutionary patriot. It is on an eight-acre tract. The brick L is the older part of the house, and was originally only a story-and-a-half high.

Here is the inviting dining room, eighteen by twenty-four feet, with its wide-paneled wainscoting of heart pine and ornate mantel with denticulated moulding. The room is made cheery by four windows provided with paneled inside blinds. The newer, front portion also has fine mantels and paneling.

A 100-pound crane still hangs within a huge chimney in the old-time kitchen standing on the premises. The Doctor's office, facing Waller Street, is a well-preserved brick building constructed on well-proportioned lines.

West of the house was Waller's Grove, where, in May 1776, Williamsburg people rejoiced in celebrating the adoption of the resolution by the Virginia Convention proposing the independence of the colonies.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Robert Nicolson House

York Street

The Robert Nicolson House is a staunch, Dutch colonial, pre-Revolutionary frame building, erected by Robert Nicolson, and inherited by his son, Dr. Robert Nicolson, who was a surgeon in Washington's army. The house stands on two lots bought by James Sperr, cabinet maker, from Benjamin Waller in 1750 for £10, and resold to Robert Nicolson, merchant and "taylor," in 1751. The deed required the building of a house within three years.

Dr. Nicolson's property, appraised in 1798 at $5,000, included seven slaves—Peter, John, Ophelia, Peg, Nancy, Sally, and Sylvia, valued at $308. For his war services, the United States government paid his estate nearly $5,000, in 1837.

The Nicolson House, twenty-five by forty-seven feet is built with two great chimneys, ten rooms and a reception hall. The beautiful interior woodwork has been preserved unaltered.

Dr. L. C. Lindsley, the present owner, purchased the property from Rev. Russell Dey, in 1923.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Benjamin Waller House

East Francis and Waller Streets

The Benjamin Waller House, built, according to tradition, in 1710, was the home of Judge Benjamin Waller, a prominent Revolutionary patriot (1710-1786) who, it is believed, descended from Edmund Waller, the British poet. His father was Colonel John Waller, sheriff of Spotsylvania county. He was in the House of Burgesses seventeen years, serving on various important committees, including those for handling the finances of the colony in 1754-66. He was later a judge of the General Court.

During the commotion following Dunmore's stealthy Powder Horn act, Waller, here in his own house, boldly told the governor that the people had lost confidence in him.

In this historic home was born Waller's grandson, Littleton Waller Tazewell, afterwards governor of Virginia, and a United States senator.

The Benjamin Waller House, with its dormer windows, and antique appearance, is a typical colonial dwelling. It is now both "Home, Sweet Home" and a shrine of patriotism.

Photo copyright. D. N. Davidson

Birthplace of Richard Bland, the Great Virginia Patriot

Photo by Clyde Holmes

The Vest House, Williamsburg
McClellan's Headquarters, 1862

Photo by Clyde Holmes

The President's House
William and Mary College

WILLIAMSBURG

Bassett Hall

540 East Francis Street

Bassett Hall was the home of John Tyler, Vice-President of the United States. Here Fletcher Webster came to inform Mr. Tyler of President Harrison's death (1841). It was previously owned by Burwell Bassett (1764-1841), son of Burwell Bassett (1734-1793), of Eltham, New Kent County, and his wife, Anna Maria Dandridge, sister of Martha Washington. It was at Eltham that Mrs. Washington's son, John Parke Custis, died (1781) from fever contracted during the Yorktown siege. Washington was a frequent guest at Bassett Hall.

Burwell Bassett, of Bassett Hall, was a descendant of the fourth generation from William Bassett, yeoman, of Isle of Wight, England, who emigrated to Virginia about 1644, and died in 1672. He served twenty years in Congress.

Here Thomas Moore, the Irish poet, inspired by seeing so many phosphorescent insects on the spacious, inviting lawn, wrote his poem, *To a Firefly,* while visiting Williamsburg in 1804.

WILLIAMSBURG

The James Semple House

512 East Francis Street

The James Semple House, formerly mistaken for the Home of Peyton Randolph, was the Home of Three Judges of the General Court of Virginia: Hugh Nelson, son of General Nelson; James Semple, who owned the house in 1800; and John B. Christian, Semple's son-in-law. Two of these judges, Nelson and Semple, were also professors of law at William and Mary College.

James Semple married (first) Anne Contesse, daughter of President John Tyler, and (second) Joanna McKenzie, another member of the Tyler generation. John B. Christian was also a brother-in-law of President Tyler. He once owned Tazewell Hall.

The early history of this very old dwelling has been lost. The interior presents some very interesting features of colonial carpentry. One of the chimneys is a "twin" structure forming an arched hallway. The house is "Restoration" property. The old law office that once stood here is now part of an adjoining property.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Galt House

East Francis Street

The Galt House is believed to be the oldest house in Williamsburg, and is supposed to have been the home of Otho Thorpe at the time of Bacon's Rebellion. It was at Otho Thorpe's house that Bacon's followers swore allegiance to him, in August, 1676, meeting, tradition says, in the small Indian schoolhouse still standing. The General Assembly of Virginia was "begunne and held at the house of Otho Thorpe" in October, 1677.

The Galts are Scotch-French. This property came into possession of the Galt family some time after the Revolutionary War. James Galt, "keeper," Dr. John M. Galt, and Dr. Alexander D. Galt were all connected with the Eastern State Hospital, in Williamsburg, and were noted for their philanthrophy.

The three rooms of intriguing interest in the Galt House are: the old-time parlor with paneled wainscoting, the library with paneled chimney breast, and the "physics room"—Dr. Alexander Galt's laboratory.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Chiswell House

432 East Francis Street

The Chiswell House was the home of Colonel John Chiswell, son of Charles Chiswell, of Hanover County. His wife was Elizabeth Randolph, daughter of William Randolph, Jr., of Turkey Island.

John Chiswell was a burgess from Hanover County eleven years, and from Williamsburg in 1756-58.

Chiswell, in 1757, discovered the New River lead mines, which furnished lead for Virginia troops in the Revolution. Fort Chiswell, in Wythe County, was named for him by William Byrd, III. A stone-built pyramid now marks the site of old Fort Chiswell.

Chiswell's name is clouded by a double tragedy. In 1766 he killed Robert Routledge, a Scotchman, in a quarrel. His friend, John Blair, Jr., was chosen by lot to prosecute. But while here awaiting trial, Chiswell committed suicide.

The eastern portion of this house was razed after the Civil War, and other alterations were made later. The property now belongs to Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Mercer House

East Francis and Botetourt Streets

The Mercer House is named for John L. Mercer, who once owned it. He married Jean Bright, daughter of Robert Bright, who was connected with the prominent Travis family, of Jamestown history, and previously owned the property.

Though its historical associations are limited, its architectural features are attractive and interesting.

The house measures forty-seven by thirty-three-and-a-half feet. The spacious lawn extends through a lot, with 155 feet front. It is an attractive dwelling, with two great chimneys and dormer windows of colonial type. It has eight rooms.

The hall is ten feet wide. The woodwork in the reception room is marked by wide, denticulated moulding around the ceiling, fine paneling, and House-of-Troy moulding on the ornate mantel.

The house is supplied throughout with fine, antique furniture. On the wall hangs an artillery captain's army commission to James Pendleton, signed by "His Excellency," Samuel Huntington, President of the Continental Congress, 1780

WILLIAMSBURG

The Roper–Lee House

East Francis Street

The Roper-Lee House is a typical colonial residence, with well-proportioned lines of architecture. But one peculiar feature is the rear wall, built to lean outward at a gradient of half-an-inch to the foot.

The house is forty-seven by twenty-eight feet. The two T-shaped (double) chimneys are built after an artistic, old-style pattern. Five of the seven dormer windows face the street. The eaves in the rear are much lower than in front, where the box cornice is finished in plain moulding.

There are four rooms in the first story. In the wide hall is a handsome stairway. Only the two six-paneled doors leading into the front rooms are alike. The two wood mantels here are not ornate, but are pleasing in design.

Little history attaches to this house. In the Civil War a wounded Louisiana soldier died in the west dormer-room. This house is scheduled for restoration during the year 1929.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Benjamin Powell House

East Francis Street

The Benjamin Powell House is one of the finest examples of restoration work in Williamsburg. The house was originally built on York Street, where Benjamin Powell, a carpenter, owned a number of lots in 1750-1760. Powell was a master mechanic, who taught apprentices "the art, trade and mystery of a carpenter." He was also employed by the colonial legislature, prior to 1770, and paid a total of £468 for repairs on the Public Gaol and the Capitol.

The Powell House, vacant and dilapidated, was moved to its present location in 1928, and restored upon an antique foundation. Original woodwork, preserved, includes the beautiful china closet reaching to the ceiling, the paneled wainscoting and stairway, a great keystone arch, Grecian fretwork and heavy, crown moulding.

This residence is also called the Hallam House, after the Hallam sisters—dramatic folk of the second theatre, on Waller Street—who once lived here.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Bracken House

East Francis and Queen Streets

The Bracken House was the home of Rev. John Bracken, the ninth president of William and Mary College (1812-1814) and rector of Bruton Parish Church for forty-five years. Dr. Bracken occupied an influential position in the Episcopal Church. He was closely identified with the cause of the colony against the mother country, and lived to see liberty achieved, the Constitution adopted and the Union established.

The four-room cottage, with its two, large chimneys of beautiful colonial design, is one of the most important and interesting old residential landmarks in Williamsburg. Under the hand of the restoration enterprise it has been renewed inside and outside. An L extension has been added, and the house equipped with modern conveniences.

Since November 1, 1928, the house has been the residence of Rev. John Bently, assistant to the rector of Bruton Church. The Bracken House, therefore, appears to be repeating history.

WILLIAMSBURG

Site of the Old Masonic Hall

East Francis and Queen Streets

The Site of the Old Masonic Hall is marked by a small concrete shaft near the corner of Queen Street. A small portion of the old foundation may still be seen. The building was torn down in 1912. It was a very common-looking two-story frame house, apparently built for a dwelling. It had a low gable, shingle roof, with a miniature cupola near the middle. The one chimney built inside, was at the right-hand end. It had one door and five windows in front.

But this humble Masonic Hall is famous in the history of Masonry. Here the first Grand Lodge in America was organized, when on October 13, 1778, the Grand Lodge of Virginia was established, with Right Worshipful John Blair, Past Master of Williamsburg Lodge, No. 6, chosen its first Grand Master.

The Williamsburg Lodge still owns the "old home" site, and will eventually rebuild upon it.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Coke House

East Francis, near Queen Street

The Coke House, or Jackson Hall, is an attractive residence on Brackenland, built with glazed-end brick in Flemish bond. It is forty-five by thirty-five feet, and has eight rooms. The name of the builder is unknown. Prior to the war for Southern independence, this house was the home of John ("Jack") Coke, who had eight stalwart sons, all of whom held commissions in the Confederate army. One of them, Richard Coke, became United States senator from Texas; and another was John Archer Coke, attorney, of Richmond.

The present owner (since 1917) has greatly improved the property, rebuilding the circular portico with Corinthian columns, and restoring the interior, with the large mantels, fine paneling and deep-walled windows, all painted in ivory-white.

The stairway is built with three flights, and a balcony crossing the rear of the hall. Jackson Hall contains a wonderful collection of the finest antique, mahogany furniture.

WILLIAMSBURG

Tazewell Hall

340 South England Street

Tazewell Hall was the home of Sir John Randolph, the great lawyer, who died in 1737, and the birthplace of Peyton, John, and Edmund Randolph. The Randolph homestead has been called Tazewell Hall only since its ownership by United States Senator Henry Tazewell, who lived here in 1794-1799, when the estate contained 1,502 acres, previously assessed in the name of Peyton Randolph. It now includes only twenty-eight acres.

The historic mansion-like house, somewhat altered in the past century, stood fronting north until about 1909, when it was moved, with its four great chimneys, twenty-five yards west and turned, facing east. It is sixty-seven feet long, with a reception hall eighteen by twenty-six feet. The lower walls are paneled to the ceiling with virgin pine. Six doors are of solid mahogany.

Eight different persons have owned Tazewell Hall since the Civil War. The property will be restored by Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.

WILLIAMSBURG

Site of the First Courthouse

Francis and England Streets

The Site of the First Courthouse in Williamsburg, according to the old Bucktrout map of the city, is just south of the Powder Horn, where the lone chimney stands; on the corner of the "Bright House Lot," near which the Restoration will build a $100,000 county and city courthouse. Here the first James City County Courthouse was erected about 1717, when the county seat was moved from Jamestown. A notation on the map reads: "Sold to R. C. Nicholas" (Robert Carter Nicholas, treasurer of the colony: 1766-1777). Brick from the old State House at Jamestown were reserved for a courthouse in 1706.

The following record is interesting: The General Assembly of 1769 ordered the sale of this old courthouse, instructing the local authorities to "apply the money arising from such sale towards discharging their properties of the expense of building the new courthouse" (erected in 1770).

WILLIAMSBURG

The Old Powder Horn

Duke of Gloucester Street

The Old Powder Horn, built by Governor Spotswood, in 1715, to shelter military stores sent to Virginia by Queen Anne, receives its name from its tower-like, cone-roofed shape. The octagonal walls are twenty-two inches thick. The public magazine cost £200. It once had a protective wall, ten feet high, surrounding it at a distance of twenty-one feet. This was razed in 1855, and used for the foundation of the Baptist church near by.

The Powder Horn furnished the spark that set Virginia aflame in the Revolution, when Governor Dunmore secretly removed most of the powder from the magazine (April 20-21, 1775), and Patrick Henry, with marching troops, made his lordship pay for it.

After the Revolution, the magazine was successively used as a market place, a Baptist church, a dancing school, a Confederate arsenal, a common stable, and since 1920 a historical museum — following its purchase by the A. P. V. A.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Baptist Church

Duke of Gloucester Street

The Williamsburg Baptist Church was erected in 1855-56; the foundation was built of brick from the protective wall around the munitions magazine close by. For twenty-five years, during the pastorate of Rev. Scervant Jones, the congregation had worshipped in the old Powder Horn, where the Revolutionary War in Virginia had started at Dunmore's signal.

The tomb of Elder Jones (1785-1854) is in Bruton Parish churchyard. When his ministry ended, Zion Church had a membership of 179 white persons and 252 slaves. A gallery around the interior of the Powder Horn allowed separation of the races.

In the Civil War, the Church became a military hospital, and was greatly damaged. Then the Freedmen's Bureau used it three years for a negro school.

The Baptist Church is an imposing structure of Doric architecture, conspicuous by its massive, white pillars. In the Williamsburg restoration it will be razed and rebuilt elsewhere.

WILLIAMSBURG

James City County Courthouse

Duke of Gloucester Street

James City County Courthouse is also the "hall of justice" for the City of Williamsburg. The first courthouse in the colonial capital was built about 1717, after the county seat was moved from Jamestown to the Bright Lot.

On December 21, 1769, Governor Botetourt signed the Act of the General Assembly authorizing the erection of the present courthouse, and the date of building is therefore 1770. The brick structure is a fine example of colonial architecture, the reproduction of a Christopher Wren design.

In the War Between the States, the records of city and county were removed to Richmond, but were destroyed when that city was burned. The Courthouse burned on March 6, 1911, but a fireproof vault saved the records.

When the Rockefeller restoration provides the county and city with a new $100,000 courthouse, this building will probably be converted into a public library.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Old Methodist Church

Duke of Gloucester Street

The Old Methodist Church has been the United States post-office building for Williamsburg since 1926. Methodism in the city dates from 1740, when George Whitefield met Commissary James Blair and preached here. "On several occasions during the next thirty years Whitefield preached in Old Bruton Church and the church yard."

The first Methodist Society was organized in Williamsburg by Robert Williams, in 1722. Bishop Asbury visited the society in 1807. Some years later the society erected a frame meeting-house on East Francis Street.

In 1842 the brick church on Duke of Gloucester Street was built. This edifice was used until the present commodious house of worship, near William and Mary College, was built, when it was abandoned at a sad, solemn farewell service, June 23, 1926, and sold, to become later the Williamsburg post-office. It will, eventually, be razed to meet the requirements of the restoration movement.

Photo copyright. D. N. Davidson

The James Semple House, Williamsburg
Home of three Judges of the General Court of Virginia

Photo copyright. D. N. Davidson

The Griffin House, Williamsburg
Home of the *Last* President of the Continental Congress

Photo by Clyde Holmes

Benjamin Waller House
Birthplace of Governor Littleton Waller Tazewell

WILLIAMSBURG

The Old Williamsburg Jail

Duke of Gloucester Street

The Old Williamsburg Jail, called Poor Debtor's Prison, built after 1744, and used until 1779, has stood 150 years as an idle relic of a bygone age when imprisonment for debt was the wretched means employed for making poor debtors pay their obligations.

But this prison was really a common jail. In 1744 the Common Hall—city council of Williamsburg—was authorized by the General Assembly to levy a special poll tax to build a jail "for the commitment of debtors, criminals and offenders." This tax could not be evaded.

A "debtor's prison," which stood near the old Public Gaol, was torn down in the Civil War. These prisons held few debtors, for "the creditors of Virginia were very merciful." After Richmond became the capital, both county and city used the old colonial prison as a common jail until 1904.

The Old Williamsburg Jail is now vacant, private property.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Travis House

Duke of Gloucester Street, S.E. Palace Green

The Travis House, a Dutch colonial frame structure, seventy-six feet long, includes three sections, built at three different periods. The house, for more than a century, was the property of the Eastern State Hospital —and a residence and executive office for superintendents of the institution. It was purchased for the Williamsburg restoration and moved, in 1929, to another location.

The western portion of the house, with the west end built of brick, was erected by Edward Champion Travis, about 1765, shortly before the General Assembly confirmed his title to the land which he had purchased from the Bruton parish vestry.

Edward Champion Travis and his son, Champion, were burgesses from Jamestown. The latter represented Jamestown in the memorable Virginia Conventions of 1775-1776. Champion Travis had a son, Samuel, who served in the War of 1812. His son-in-law, Edmund Ruffin (noted agriculturist), fired the first gun at Fort Sumter.

WILLIAMSBURG

The James Galt House

Duke of Gloucester Street, Opp. Bruton Church

The James Galt House, removed from the Eastern State Hospital grounds and restored in 1929 on a new foundation opposite Bruton Parish Church, has been named for James Galt, the first "keeper," or superintendent, of the asylum, 1773-1800. James Galt, son of Samuel Galt, was of Scotch-French descent. He was a soldier in the Yorktown campaign, and the first treasurer of the Williamsburg Masonic Lodge.

William T. Galt, mayor of Williamsburg when La Fayette visited the city in 1824, lived in this house and is buried in the brick-walled Galt cemetery on the hospital grounds. The Galts, noted for their philanthropy, were connected with the hospital, as physicians or superintendents, until the War Between the States.

This house contains much hand-hewn oak framework. It was originally built without the hall and stairway and the right-hand front entrance. Some old farmhouse cypress weatherboarding was used in repairing the exterior.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Restoration House

234 West Duke of Gloucester Street

The Restoration House was formerly the rectory of Bruton Parish Church. Some would call it the Barbara Page House, because it is said to have been purchased by Miss Barbara Page, sister of Governor John Page, and presented to the church for a rectory, the women of "old Bruton" paying the insurance and furnishing the house.

The old rectory is also said to have been built about 1847, by a carpenter named James who, before it was quite finished, sold it to Colonel Goodrich Durfey, he selling it, about 1848, to the church.

The house is a large, four-story building, including a two-story wing and basement. In 1928-29 the interior was all renewed and tastefully furnished throughout.

The Restoration House is the temporary residence of the restoration officials coming to Williamsburg for executive meetings to determine the successive steps of the great transformation program for making Williamsburg a museum city.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Ferguson House

303 Prince George, at Nassau Street

The Ferguson House, on Minor Terrace, is a very old story-and-a-half building, with a steep, gable roof. It is located on the Ferguson Lot, shown on the old map of Williamsburg. In 1745, William Pegrim conveyed the property to James Ray, a carpenter. Some French soldiers, tradition says, were quartered here after the surrender of Cornwallis.

Before the War Between the States, an old dairywoman lived here, her cows grazing at large, unmolested; while the little Ferguson Spring, still flowing in a ravine, quenched their thirst.

Until recent years, this quaint little house and the colonial Green Hill residence, some distance west, were the only two homes in the entire block, north of which is located the new $400,000 school plant.

The Ferguson House was lately occupied by the Phi Mu sorority of William and Mary College. It has been purchased for restoration by Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Lucian Minor House

302 Prince George, at Nassau Street

The Lucian Minor House, on Minor Terrace, was the home of Lucian Minor, brother of the celebrated John B. Minor, of the University of Virginia, and professor of law at William and Mary, 1855 1858, and next to the last (Charles Morris) of that famous galaxy, of which George Wythe was the first.

The house, a modern, two-story frame dwelling, was once owned by Travis Southall, and for forty years has been the residence of John S. Charles, who was custodian of the College buildings during the suspension period, 1881-1888.

In the little, brick-walled College cemetery (the last resting place also of Colonel Benjamin S. Ewell, president of William and Mary, 1854-1888) is a monument erected by the Virginia Sons of Temperance, to Lucian Minor "in honor of his exalted worth as a man, a scholar, and a Christian, his early, consistent and able support of Temperance."

WILLIAMSBURG

The Marshall House

West Francis Street

The Marshall House, a pre-Revolutionary building, is a large, dormer-windowed, brick dwelling, with ivy-mantled walls, built on a lot embracing about seven-eighths of the entire block west of the Eastern State Hospital. The house has a copper tile roof. The brick barn is covered with sheet copper. A six-foot hedge borders the property along Francis Street. Maples, sycamores, magnolias and evergreens shade the entire premises.

After the death of William T. Galt, superintendent of the hospital, and mayor of Williamsburg, who welcomed La Fayette in 1824, his widow became the owner. At one time the house was used for school purposes. Dr. Richard A. Wise, son of Governor Henry A. Wise, owned this "Galt House and Lot" before it became (in 1895) the property of Miss Marie Marshall, from whose heirs it passed (about 1923) to Bruton Parish Church; and in 1928 the church sold it to the Rockefeller Restoration.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Clowes House

426 Ireland Street

The Clowes House, in southwestern Williamsburg, is apparently one of the oldest brick buildings in the city. It is a four-room dwelling, thirty-three feet six inches by nineteen feet three inches. When and by whom the house was built cannot be determined; but it stands near Thomas Ballard's "field," shown on the Ludwell plot of land sold to Ballard before the establishment of the College on land purchased from Ballard.

The genealogy of the Clowes family, however, is preserved in *Thompson's History of Long Island*. Samuel Clowes, born in England, 1674, was taught mathematics by the astronomer Flamstead, for whom Greenwich Observatory was built. Coming to New York, 1697, and later accompanying Lord Cornbury to Jamaica, he became the first lawyer on Long Island. He died in 1760. His children were: Gerardus, Samuel, John, Peter, Joseph, Aletta, Mary and Catherine.

John Clowes, resident-owner of this house descended from a member of this numerous family.

WILLIAMSBURG

The Eastern State Hospital

West Francis Street

The Eastern State Hospital is situated on land purchased from Dr. Thomas Walker, of Albemarle County. The first building, erected by Benjamin Powell, and costing £1070, was completed in 1773. The bronze tablet on a granite marker near the entrance gate, contains the following data:

"This hospital is the oldest institution of its kind in America. Francis Fauquier was governor in 1768. In November 1769 . . . an Act was passed by the House of Burgesses confirming the establishment of this institution. . . . The first Court of Directors was composed of the following: Thomas Nelson, Jr., . . . Peyton Randolph, . . . George Wythe, . . . Benjamin Waller, Thomas Everard, Robert Carter, Robert Carter Nicholas, John Blair, John Blair, Jr., Thomas Nelson, William Nelson, John Randolph, Dudley Digges, Jr., John Tazewell and Lewis Burwell."

In 1902, fire destroyed two of the buildings, from the towers of one of which citizens of Williamsburg had watched the Battle of Williamsburg in 1862.

WILLIAMSBURG

Martha Washington's Kitchen

Hospital Grounds

Martha Washington's Kitchen is a small, brick building on the "Six-Chimney Lot" within the enclosed grounds of the Eastern State Hospital, where formerly stood a stately mansion, the home of Daniel Parke Custis, inherited from his father, Colonel John Custis, in 1749. His widow, Martha (Dandridge) Custis, lived at the "White House" on the Pamunkey River, in New Kent County, where she married George Washington (1759). George and Martha Washington spent their honeymoon at the Custis mansion. Afterwards, Mrs. Washington was accustomed to visit her former home here; likewise, Colonel Washington, while a member of the House of Burgesses.

Today the White House is in ruins; and of the once prominent Custis home there remain only this little antique kitchen and the old yew tree Martha planted to "carry one back" to the domestic scenes in the life of the wealthy matron who first became the "First Lady of the Land."

Early York

York County and York River were first called Pamunkey Shire and Pamunkey River; then the latter became Charles River. Then Charles River Shire, in 1634, became one of the eight original shires in the colony. After 1642 the name Charles for both river and county gave place to the "Countie of Yorke" and the York River.

Captain Nicholas Martian, a French Walloon, in 1621 patented land where Yorktown now stands. In the 1630's Captain Robert Felgate and the Lee brothers (Richard and Henry) settled in the region of the Kiskyacke Indians.

The first burgess from "Early York," in the colonial General Assembly, was Captain Nicholas Martian, in 1631-32, representing Kiskyacke and the Isle of Kent in the Chesapeake.

In 1691 Captain Martian's grandson, Benjamin Read, sold to Ring and Ballard, trustees, fifty acres of land, for the site of Yorktown, for 10,000 pounds of tobacco. Lawrence Smith surveyed the half-acre lots.

YORK COUNTY

Bellfield

Bellfield, at the Navy Mine Depot, was the seat of Edward Digges who, in 1655, became the second of the three Puritan governors of Virginia during the Cromwell regime. He was the son of Sir Dudley Digges, Master of the Rolls, under Charles I. He is noted for his effort to establish silk culture in the colony. He employed two Armenians to promote the industry. The mulberry trees on the Peninsula are living monuments to Governor Digges. His tomb, on the government reservation, was restored by Commander Alfred H. Miles. The second Bellfield dwelling was razed soon after the World War.

Captain John West, a brother of Lord Delaware, first patented Bellfield, and in 1650 sold the plantation to Edward Digges, and moved to West Point. His son, Colonel John West, born at Bellfield, was the first Englishman born on the York River. Bellfield remained in the Digges family one hundred years.

YORK COUNTY

Chischiacke

Chischiacke (spelled many different ways) is the oldest Lee house in America. According to court records, "York County was the cradle of the Lees on the American continent." Kiskyacke locates the early home of three Lee brothers—Richard, Henry, and George—who came to the Province of Virginia between 1633 and 1641.

Richard bought land in the Northern Neck about 1648, whither he moved before 1651, and there founded the sturdy Lee family of first, Mt. Pleasant, and, later, Stratford. Henry remained on the York, and in 1920 the Kiskyacke estate was sold by William Warren Harrison Lee to the United States Government.

The famous old Lee House was partially destroyed by fire in 1915. But the preservation of the quaint, diminutive, brick dwelling of the pioneer Lees, in the family line for nearly three centuries is, indeed, most noteworthy.

Chischiacke vies in antiquity with the Rolfe house in Surry County.

YORK COUNTY

Porto Bello

On Queen's Creek

Porto Bello was the country seat of Governor Dunmore, who purchased it in 1773 from William Drummond and wife (Rachel Tyler, daughter of John Tyler, the Marshal). Dunmore's servants took refuge here when he and Lady Dunmore fled to the "Fowey" at Yorktown. The place was confiscated, with Dunmore's other property, by the new Virginia government, in 1776.

The house, fifteen by twenty-eight feet, was burned in recent years, and afterwards rebuilt. A new, second-story rests on the original walls. The hardwood stairway is the most attractive piece of work in the house.

Porto Bello faces Queen's Creek, a delightful prospect over the meadow towards the York. This serpentine stream was once an artery of commerce for Williamsburg. The colonial brick smokehouse, twelve feet square, now supports a water tank. Here is a marble tomb "Sacred to the memory of Susan H. Bright, wife of Samuel F. Bright" (1805-1850).

YORKTOWN

The Sheild House

The Sheild House, known as the oldest house in Yorktown, is a very substantial brick dwelling, erected by Thomas Sessions, in 1699—one year after the county seat of York was moved from the Half-Way House, on Temple Farm, to Yorktown. Only the narrow Pearl Street separates it from the historic Nelson house.

This oldest house bears no scars from the siege of Yorktown; but its antiquity, architecture, and location in the historic village combine to make it a most interesting landmark.

The Sheild house, including the basement, is three stories high, with curb roof and typical colonial dormer windows. The inside measure of the front door frame is eight by five feet. In the old parlor is a marble fire hearth.

In her register, kept for distinguished guests, Mrs. Conway Sheild has many autographs of famous visitors, including Presidents Taft, Harding, Wilson, and Mrs. Wilson; also Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Herbert Hoover.

YORKTOWN

Grace Church

Grace Church, originally York-Hampton Church, was built prior to 1700—succeeding the old Yorke Church at Church Field on Temple Farm. The material used is a kind of marl rock. During the siege of Yorktown, Cornwallis used it as a magazine, damaging it to the extent of £150. It was desecrated and burned by British soldiers in 1814. Originally T-shaped, it was rebuilt in 1841 in its present rectangular form. The hall-mark date of the silver communion service is 1649.

When McClellan occupied Yorktown in the Civil War, the bell fell from its belfry and was broken. It was taken North and became a lost castaway. Found in Philadelphia, with "Yorktown, Virginia, 1725," on one of the fragments, it was recast in 1882, returned to Yorktown, and hung on a scaffold June 11, 1889.

In Grace churchyard are the tombs of General Nelson, his father, William, and his grandfather, Thomas.

YORKTOWN

The Old Customhouse

The Old Customhouse was built about 1706, by Richard Ambler, who occupied it as "Collector of Ports for Yorktown in 1720." At this period Yorktown was the port of entry for New York, Philadelphia, and other Northern cities.

Richard Ambler married Elizabeth Jacquelin, and inherited the Jacquelin estate on Jamestown Island.

This two-story brick government building was last used as a residence during the World War. In April, 1924, the Comte de Grasse Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, purchased the historic landmark for $6,000. In 1929 it went under course of reconstruction, the entire expense of $25,000 being a donation from Mrs. Arthur Kelly Evans, a chapter member, of Hot Springs, Virginia.

Because of its unique place in the commercial history of America, this Old Customhouse has been called The Cradle of the American Tariff System, and The First Nurse of Protection. It is open, daily, to visitors.

YORKTOWN

The Cole Digges House

The Cole Digges House, opposite the old custom-house, is a well-built story-and-a-half, dormer-windowed brick dwelling, erected in 1705 by John Martin, who purchased lot No. 42, on which it stands, from the town trustees, Ballard and Buckner, after it had been forfeited in 1692 by John Seaborne, and later by Joane Lawson, for having failed to build thereon within a year.

Martin, in 1713, sold the property to Cole Digges, whose son, Dudley Digges (later of Williamsburg), in 1784, sold it to David Jamison for £175. Jamison, in 1794, resold it, likewise for £175, to George Goosley, who in 1799 sold it for £250 to John Southgate, from whom it has come down through various transfers to the present owners.

In 1925 it was restored by Mrs. Carroll Paul, of Marquette, Michigan. The interior walls, beautifully paneled to the ceiling, are heart pine, with an antique finish.

YORKTOWN

The West House

The West House was built about 1706, on land purchased from the town trustees, by Miles and Emanuel Wills. It was occupied by British officers during the siege of Yorktown, and bears the marks of three cannon balls fired by American troops—two going through the first floor of the house and one through the cellar and splitting a twelve-inch sill.

It was named after Major John R. West, probably a descendant of Lieutenant-Colonel John West, of the Eastern Shore, a Bacon partisan whom Berkeley pardoned, and whose five sons were named Anthony, Alexander, John the Elder, Jonathan, and John the Younger.

Major West married Elizabeth Nelson, sister of William Nelson, Jr., grandson of General Thomas Nelson, Jr. He bought this house from Mrs. Elizabeth Nicholas, daughter of Dudley Digges, of Williamsburg, in 1821. Subsequent owners of the West House were W. H. Sheild (1841), and William Nelson, Jr. (1843).

YORKTOWN

The Old Yorktown Hotel

The Old Yorktown Hotel is a story-and-a-half building, forty-two by eighteen feet, with a sixteen-foot T-stem extension in the rear, dormer windows lighting the rooms in the upper story of each part. The brick in the main structure are laid in Flemish bond; but in the right-hand chimney they are in English bond. The chimney at the opposite end of the building is of modern construction.

The hotel was originally a residence, built about 1710, and occupied as such by Judge George Southall before the War of the 60's. It has been a "hotel" only since that period. (The Swan Tavern was the famous hostlery of early Yorktown history and until its destruction about 1862.) The long, frame addition in the rear was built from lumber first used in barracks for soldiers of the War Between the States. However, the "Yorktown" with its halo of Revolutionary associations, is the "Swan's" successor.

YORKTOWN

Foundation of Secretary Nelson's House

The site of Secretary Nelson's House was acquired in 1927 by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. The foundation will be excavated, protected and marked as the first headquarters of Cornwallis, who was forced to abandon the house on October 11th. Shells demolished the mansion.

Thomas Nelson, secretary of the colony, was General Nelson's uncle, and left the beleagured town under a flag of truce, while Cornwallis occupied the home of General Thomas Nelson, Jr. as his second headquarters. Secretary Nelson's house was, perhaps, a finer residence than the Nelson House now standing.

This ruined foundation measures fifty-seven and a half by forty-five and a half feet, and is two feet thick. Portions are in a well-preserved condition, the mortar in some places being stronger than the brick it holds together. The highway from Yorktown to Hampton passes within a few feet of the foundation, which is a short distance from the national monument.

YORKTOWN

The Nelson House

The Nelson House, or York Hall, a fine example of Georgian architecture and nationally famous as a Revolutionary shrine, was built by William Nelson for his son, Thomas Nelson, Jr., afterwards General Nelson, who, at the siege of Yorktown, ordered his soldiers to fire on his own house to drive out the British officers. Two cannon balls remain in the eastern brick wall.

General Nelson is buried in the churchyard of Grace Church, Yorktown. The large, granite stone marking his grave bears this significant epitaph:

"General Thomas Nelson, Jr., Patriot, Soldier, Christian Gentleman. Born December 12, 1738; Died January 22, 1789. Mover of the Resolution of May 16, 1776, in the Virginia Convention instructing her delegates in Congress to Move that Body to Declare the Colonies FREE and INDEPENDENT STATES: Signer of the Declaration of Independence; War Governor of Virginia; Commander of the Virginia Forces.

He Gave All For Liberty."

NEAR YORKTOWN

The Moore House

The Moore House, on Temple Farm, was the scene of Cornwallis' capitulation to Washington, October 19, 1781, which virtually ended the war for American independence. That event made this house a national landmark. The United States Government has secured the Moore house to preserve it as a patriotic shrine.

Here, in 1649, Colonel George Ludlow, of the Virginia Council, and Colonel Ralph Wormsley entertained some refugee cavaliers from England.

In 1769, Augustine Moore, grandson of Governor Spotswood, purchased this property from Robert Smith, his brother-in-law. After the Revolution, it was the home of the widow of Daniel Moore.

Temple Farm (named after Rev. Peter Temple, owner, 1660-1686) was the site of York Village, or Churchfield, the county seat until 1698. Sheldon Sheild bought the farm in 1834. He found, within a ruined, circular wall, a heap of broken tombstones. One bore the name of Governor Spotswood. (Bishop Meade letter, 1845.)

YORKTOWN BATTLEFIELD

The Sword Surrender Monument

The exact spot of the Sword Surrender, about a mile from the national Yorktown monument, had been marked originally by four poplar trees, planted in a square by General Nelson's son, William. These trees, and a thirteen-foot monument which had been planted beside them, about 1860, disappeared during the Civil War.

This Surrender Monument, twenty-one and a half feet high, was erected since the War Between the States, by John W. Shaw, keeper of the national cemetery, at his own expense, as a material expression of his patriotism. It is, perhaps, as near, as can ever be known, to the identical spot where General O'Hara delivered Cornwallis' sword to General Lincoln. Certainly, very near this monument these officers stood as Britain delivered her vanquished sword to Washington, yielding American liberty and independence.

The plot of ground on which this monument stands was included in the purchase of the Moore house for a national shrine.

The Yorktown Monument

The Yorktown Monument, on a bluff overlooking the York River, commemorates American victory in the Revolutionary War. It was erected pursuant to resolutions adopted by Congress, in October 1781 and June 1880. The cornerstone was laid by President Arthur, October 19, 1881. The monument was completed in 1884. It is ninety-five feet six inches high. This memorial is a magnificent companion to the Washington Monument and the Statue of Liberty.

On four sides of the base, pediments bear emblems of nationality, war, alliance, and peace. "Thirteen female figures on the circular podium signify the thirteen original States. On the circular band beneath their feet are the words: 'One Country, One Destiny, and One Constitution.' In the midst of thirty-eight stars is the 'Branch of Peace', the shield of Yorktown. On top stands the star-crowned Goddess of Liberty, welcoming the people of all nations to share with us our peace and prosperity."

NEAR YORKTOWN

Yorktown Battlefield Memorials

On the ancient Yorktown Battlefield, by the road to the Moore House, are two bronze-granite memorials to the soldiers who stormed the two main outposts of Cornwallis—Redoubts No. 9 and No. 10, on October 14, 1781.

One commemorates the assault made by La Fayette's light infantry, under Alexander Hamilton, who captured Redoubt 10, on the British left, near the York, and thus hastened the surrender of Yorktown. The other monument is "In commemoration of the French soldiers and sailors who gave their lives for American freedom," erected near the site of Redoubt 9.

In 1824, La Fayette was present when a celebration was held on the site of Redoubt 10. The monument to his troops was erected by the Sons of the Revolution in the State of New York, 1925. The other memorial was erected by the American Legion Department of Virginia, September, 1927.

YORKTOWN

The York County Clerk's Office

The York County Clerk's Office, an eighteen by twenty-four brick building, erected since the Civil War, is one of the smallest county clerk's offices in Virginia. It has but two rooms, the repository for records being only eight feet wide. But the court records here, excepting those in Accomac County, are the oldest in the State; they date from 1633.

Some of these priceless volumes have been restored. York records are the only source material for legal data relating to much Williamsburg property, because the colonial capital was originally partly in York County. These old records are of great value to the architects of the Williamsburg Restoration.

This tiny office holds among its treasures the first court records naming the first Lees—Richard and Henry—who came to Virginia, the last will and testament of Peyton Randolph, and a deed pertaining to the site of the first theatre in America.

HAMPTON

St. John's Church

Queen Street

The history of St. John's Church, Elizabeth City parish, dates from the settlement of Kecoughtan—now Hampton—in 1610, making this the oldest English parish in continuous existence in America. The first rector was Rev. William Meuse (1610-1620). The first church was built on the Tabb site in 1620, and another at Pembroke Farm, prior to 1667.

Pursuant to action by the governor, by popular request, six men were named, in January 1727, "to lay off 1½ acres at upper End of Queen Street for building a church thereon."

Beginning thus, the present church was built. In the War of 1812 it was shamefully desecrated. Only walls and roof remained till 1824. Restored, named St. John's (1827), consecrated under Bishop Meade (1830), reduced to bare walls by fire in the War of '61, and again rebuilt (1869), St. John's is now one of the strongest Episcopal churches in Virginia.

HAMPTON

Syms–Eaton Academy

Locust Street

Syms-Eaton Academy is the oldest free school in America. The inscription on a brass tablet erected in the school building reads:

"BENJAMIN SIMS, Founder of the First Free School in the American Colonies, 1634. Who devised two hundred acres of land on Poquoson River with the milk and increase of eight cows for the maintenance of a learned and honest man to keep upon the said grounds a free school.

"THOMAS EATON. Donor of five hundred acres of land on Back River with other properties for the support of a free school and able schoolmaster to educate and teach the children born within Elizabeth City County. 1659. The two schools were united on this site as the Hampton Academy by Act of Assembly, 1805."

The property bequeathed for these schools, converted into $10,000 school bonds, is held by the county and city school boards, the income helping to support the institution.

HAMPTON

The Braddock Monument

Foot of Victoria Street

The Braddock Monument, in Hampton, stands near the spot where General Braddock first landed in Virginia, in March, 1755, with two regiments of British troops sent to drive the French from the upper Ohio Valley.

The story of Braddock's defeat is universally known; but the fact that Braddock landed in Hampton, then the principal city and port in Virginia, has been ignored by most writers of Virginia history. To commemorate this event, the Daughters of the American Revolution erected the large monument, surmounted by a huge cannon, on the shore of Hampton Creek. The inscription on this memorial fills an important gap, left by many writers, in the story of Braddock's campaign.

After conferring with Governor Dinwiddie at Williamsburg, General Braddock proceeded with his troops, on three transports, up the Chesapeake and Potomac to Alexandria, where plans for the expedition against the French were made at the historic Carlyle House.

ELIZABETH CITY COUNTY

Old Point Comfort

Old Point Comfort, the second place where the colonists of 1607 came ashore (April 30th) on their voyage to Jamestown, is exactly on the 37th parallel of latitude. In this vicinity, upon the invitation of five natives, the first settlers were entertained by the Kiquotan Indians with corn bread, tobacco and pipes, and a dance. The English then presented the friendly Kiquotans beads and other trinkets. The Kecoughtan "hunting-grounds" extended northwest to Skiff's Creek and the Poquoson River. Hampton, founded at old Kecoughtan Indian town (1610) by settlers from Jamestown, is the oldest English city in America.

A line drawn from Old Point to Willoughby Spit marks the mouth of the James—entrance to Virginia's famous harbor. Nearby, in Hampton Roads, is Fort Wool, formerly Fort Calhoun, on an artificial island—the "Rip-Raps"—once suggested as an ideal location for a memorial to Matthew Fontaine Maury, "Pathfinder of the Seas."

ELIZABETH CITY COUNTY

Fort Monroe

Old Point

Fort Monroe, named for President James Monroe, was built in 1834. John C. Calhoun was the Secretary of War. Further work on the fort, including modifications ordered, was continued until the Civil War. The cost of construction, according to original plans, was estimated at nearly $2,000,000. The accumulation of material started in 1817, and actual construction work began in 1819. The first commandant was Lieutenant-Colonel Abraham Eustis. The lighthouse was built in 1802.

Here, closely confined in a cell, Jefferson Davis was held a prisoner after the fall of the Southern Confederacy.

The first fort erected here was Fort Algernourne, built in 1609, by Captain George Percy, from Jamestown. It was a "weak structure of boards ten hands high, with twenty-five soldiers and four iron pieces." This one and later forts were demolished by storms. Fort George, the strongest and last one preceding Fort Monroe, was destroyed in 1749.

ELIZABETH CITY COUNTY

Birthplace of George Wythe

The birthplace of George Wythe is a small, brick dwelling, with dormer windows set in a shed roof on one side of the house. It is ten miles north of Hampton, on Harris' Creek, a branch of Back Bay River, tributary to Chesapeake Bay. Here George Wythe was born in 1726, the exact date of his birth being unknown.

Wythe's grandfather, Thomas Wythe, came to Virginia in 1680. His father, also, was named Thomas Wythe. Here his mother, Elizabeth (Walker) Wythe, taught him Greek, Latin and mathematics. William and Mary College was his alma mater.

George Wythe was the first of Virginia's seven delegates in the Continental Congress to sign the Declaration of Independence. He was also the author of the State seal of Virginia, with its classic figures and the famous motto: *Sic Semper Tyrannis.*

Wythe died in Richmond, in 1806, and lies buried in old St. John's Cemetery.

ELIZABETH CITY COUNTY

Wythe Walls

Wythe Walls, the ruins of Chesterville, near Hampton, mark the site of the home of George Wythe. His father was wealthy. Here he lived, after inheriting his patrimony, and while representing his county in the House of Burgesses. For years Chesterville was a well-nigh forgotten landmark—a neglected but magnificent brick ruin festooned with growing vines, and aptly called Wythe Walls. But about the year 1926 the grand old ruins were dynamited as being dangerous; and now all that is left of the second home of one of Virginia's four great Georges is a heap of tumbled brick and mortar. The historic walls now exist only in photographs. Thus has disappeared the home of a man famous for his public services, and whom Jefferson called "one of the greatest men of his age." George Wythe School, in his native county of Elizabeth City, is a fitting memorial to his name.

Newport News

On Hampton Roads

Newport News, the Shipbuilding City, as a municipality, dates from 1881. Records preserved by the Newport News Pioneers locate old farms where the city now stands. It was named from Sir William Newce, or Captain Christopher Newport, or *both*. Dr. Alexander Brown and Dr. Lyon G. Tyler accept the "Newce" tradition.

Newce, as "Marshal of Virginia" and a member of the Council, transported 1,000 persons to Virginia in 1621. For this he was granted 2,000 acres; but he died two days before his patent could be confirmed. Newce's friend, Daniel Gookin (an Englishman) brought "50 men and 30 passengers" here in 1621, receiving a patent "as large as that granted to Sir William Newce."

"Master Gookin" bravely defended Newport News in the Indian Massacre of 1622. He afterwards carried news of the great calamity to England.

NORFOLK

St. Paul's Church

St. Paul's Church, originally built as a "chappell of ease," in 1641, was erected in 1739, on the plan of old English churches. Already in 1637 there were two churches in the "Lower County of New Norfolk," but public convenience required a "chappell of ease" at Elizabeth River (now Norfolk City), which the present house of worship afterwards supplanted.

St. Paul's Church was burned in the Revolution, when only its well-built walls were left standing in Norfolk. The ancient parish records were also destroyed. The church bears a plate with this inscription: "Fired by Lord Dunmore, Jan. 1, 1776."

St. Paul's was partially restored after the Revolution; abandoned after 1800; used temporarily by the Baptists; fully restored in 1832, and rededicated by Bishop Moore; seized and damaged by federal troops in the War Between the States; and then restored as it appears today—the most outstanding historical landmark in Norfolk.

PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY

The Adam Thoroughgood House

The Adam Thoroughgood House, on Lynnhaven Bay, was built by the emigrant, whose name it bears prior to 1640. Adam Thoroughgood was the son of William Thoroughgood, and came to Virginia from Lynn, England, in the ship *Charles,* in 1621, settling first at Kecoughtan, now Hampton.

In 1634 he moved to the Lynnhaven region, and in 1635 patented 5,350 acres granted him for importing 105 persons, among whom was Augustine Warner, an ancestor of George Washington. He is regarded as the godfather of Norfolk county. Thoroughgood was a member of the governor's council under Sir John Harvey.

The Thoroughgood House has very thick walls, into which are built two great T-chimneys, mantled with ivy. In the living room the chimney breast is paneled to the ceiling.

The present owner has had the famous house substantially repaired. In April, 1921, the tercentenary of Adam Thoroughgood was celebrated, at the Thoroughgood House.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY

St. Luke's Church

St Luke's "the old brick church," is on the highway from Smithfield to Suffolk. Bishop Meade calls it the "old Smithfield church." The name, St. Luke's Church, is only about a century old.

Competent authority has pronounced the "old brick church" to be "the most precious building in America," because it is a rare example of the pre-Wren style of architecture. Built by Joseph Bridger, in 1632, it is the oldest English brick structure in America.

The first vestry book, buried in a trunk to preserve it during Tarleton's raid, has been lost. The second vestry book, dating from 1724, has been preserved.

For many years during the past century, the church was in ruins. In June, 1887, the roof fell in and broke down part of the walls. It was restored in 1887-1894, under the direction of Edward Stent, a New York architect, who donated his services.

SURRY COUNTY

The Thomas Rolfe House

The Thomas Rolfe House, often called the Warren House, was built in English bond for Thomas Rolfe, by Thomas Warren, about 1651 or 1652, on 150 acres which John Rolfe, husband of Pocahontas, once owned "by virtue of a guift from the Indyan King," Powhatan. Thomas Rolfe sold this "guift" to William Corker. The deed of conveyance, on record at Surry Court House, is dated June 10, 1654, and was recorded May 9, 1674. The writing, in unique style, is still quite clear, distinct and legible.

This fifty-foot brick house is two or three miles from Scotland Wharf, opposite Jamestown, and is connected by an underground tunnel with Smith's Fort, nearly a mile away. It was purchased in 1928 for restoration by Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.

Thomas Rolfe was the father of Jane Rolfe, the grandmother of Jane Bolling, who married Richard Randolph, the grandfather of John Randolph, of Roanoke.

SURRY COUNTY

Bacon's Castle

Bacon's Castle, a famous landmark of Bacon's Rebellion, memorializes the first struggle for American liberty. It was built in 1660, by Arthur Allen, emigrant in 1649. Dying in 1670, he left his estate to his son, Major Arthur Allen, speaker of the House of Burgesses. Major Allen being a partisan of Berkeley, his residence was seized and held as a stronghold by followers of Bacon. In 1677 Allen sued Robert Burgess because "during the late horrid Rebellion he with others did seize and keep garrison in the plt's house neare fower months."

The house was built in the form of a Greek cross, but part of the present structure is modern. The walls of the "castle" are two feet thick. The beams and rafters, made of heavy oak timbers, are still in a perfect state of preservation.

Bacon's Castle has been owned for years by Charles Walker Warren, of Smithfield.

SURRY COUNTY

The Chanco Memorial

At Surry Courthouse

The Chanco Memorial was unveiled on Friday, April 26, 1929. Addresses were made by J. Gordon Bohannon, of Petersburg, and Chief Wa-Hun-Sun-a-Cook, of the Pamunkey Indian Reservation. Chief Cook's daughter, Pocahontas, unveiled the memorial, which is a natural boulder six feet high, weighing four tons, and bears a bronze tablet eighteen by twenty-four inches:

"In Memory of Chanco, the Indian who lived with Richard Pace at Pace's Paines in this county, and who on the night before the Massacre of March 22nd, 1622, informed Pace of Opechancanough's Plot and thus saved the Jamestown Colony.

"Erected A. D. 1929. By the Thomas Rolfe Branch of Surry County, A. P. V. A."

Chanco was a Christian Indian boy baptized with the name Perry. He lived near Four-Mile Tree. His heathen brother had revealed to him the plot of the Indians to destroy the English. Perry Chanco deserves a monument on Jamestown Island.

SURRY COUNTY

Claremont Manor

Claremont Manor is a replica of Claremont, in Surrey County, England—the residence of Queen Victoria's father, the Duke of Kent. Claremont, built in a ten-acre park, is noted for its beautiful garden and boxwoods. The house is connected with the James River by a brick-walled, underground passageway.

This manor was formerly known as the Allen House, named for Major Arthur Allen, owner of Bacon's Castle, in 1676, and speaker of the House of Burgesses in 1688. The estate, originally granted to Arthur Allen, emigrant in 1649, descended to Colonel William Allen, Jr. (War of 1812), from William Orgain, taking the name of William Allen (Major C. S. A.), who inherited thirty-odd thousand acres, including Jamestown Island.

Prior to the Civil War, Claremont was visited by presidents of the United States. During the war, federal soldiers, ransacking the mansion, discovered secret chambers containing quantities of liquid stores.

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

Brandon

Brandon-on-the-James is thirty-nine miles below Richmond. Originally Martin's Brandon it is now sometimes called Lower Brandon, and was named from Brandon, a small town in Suffolk, England. John Martin, a member of the first Council at Jamestown, in 1617 received a patent for ten shares of land from the London Company for his long services to the colony, and located his grant here.

About 1635-37 Brandon passed from Martin's grandson, Robert Bargrave, to Robert Quiney and John Sadler, and thence by inheritance to Robert Richardson, who in 1720 sold the estate to Nathaniel Harrison, of Wakefield, Surry County, grandson of Benjamin Harrison, emigrant.

The three sections of the house were built at different times, the older part by Nathaniel Harrison II.

Brandon—home of the Harrisons for two centuries—was purchased in 1926 by Robert Daniel, who now holds Martin's original patent, the oldest document of its kind in America.

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY

Upper Brandon

Upper Brandon is three miles above Lower Brandon. To it belongs some of the historic charm of Martin's Brandon, of 1617, and the famous seat of the original Brandon Manor of the early Harrisons, whose descendants afterwards established Berkeley Manor, across the James River, another home of the Harrisons, whence came two presidents of the United States.

Upper Brandon was once included in the original Brandon estate. The house was built early in the nineteenth century, by William Byrd Harrison, a brother of George Evelyn Harrison, of Lower Brandon. Their father was Benjamin Harrison, the Signer, whose second wife (their mother) was Evelyn Taylor Byrd, daughter of William Byrd, III.

Eventually, Upper Brandon passed to George Harrison Byrd and Francis Otway Byrd.

Federal troops, on a visit here, left bullet holes in the walls and sabre cuts on the balustrade. Upper Brandon is noted for its beautiful shade trees and dwarf boxwood.

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

Shirley

Shirley is a splendid colonial mansion, below Richmond, on the James. West Sherley Hundred was first occupied in 1613, when Sir Thomas Dale established Bermuda Hundred, the owners being Lord Delaware (Thomas West) and his three brothers, Captains Francis, Nathaniel, and John West—all living in Virginia, and John afterwards giving his name to West Point, Virginia.

Lord Delaware married Cecilly Sherley, daughter of Sir Thomas Sherley, whence the name Shirley.

Later, Edward Hill, Sr. patented 2,544 acres at Shirley Hundred. The estate was inherited by Edward Hill, Jr., whose daughter, Elizabeth, one of three children, married John Carter, son of Robert ("King") Carter, and became heir to Shirley Hundred.

At Shirley was born Anne Hill Carter, the daughter of Charles and Anne Butler Carter, and afterwards the wife of Light Horse Harry Lee, and the mother of General Robert E. Lee.

Mr. Rockefeller purchased Peale's "Washington" here, in 1929.

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

Westover

Westover, home of the Byrds, was once called the most famous country home in America. In 1637, Thomas Pawlett (a burgess in 1619) patented 2,000 acres on the James, and called it Westover. The estate then passed to Theodorick Bland, whose two sons, in 1688, sold 1,200 acres to William Byrd, Sr. for £300 and 10,000 pounds of tobacco. In 1690, Byrd built the first Westover house of wood. William Byrd, II built the present Westover.

"Honorable William Byrd of Westover, Esquire," was the most cultured and eminent Virginian of his time (1674-1744). His library contained 3,625 volumes, including a copy of *Records of the London Company.* He wrote the valuable *Westover Manuscripts.* Colonel Byrd was the founder of Richmond. The beautiful and accomplished Evelyn Byrd was his daughter. His grave is in Westover garden. Westover was General McClellan's headquarters in 1862.

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

Westover Church

Westover Church is the second or third church in Westover parish—established before 1652. The present church was moved, tradition says, about 1737 from its original site at Westover, brick by brick, to its location today, at Evelynton, two miles away, where Evelyn Byrd gave land on which to rebuild it.

When the first church was built is unknown. Early dates in the old Westover churchyard are: 1642—William Ashton; 1671—Theodorick Bland; 1699—Mary Byrd; 1718—Rev. Charles Anderson, first known minister, twenty-six years rector of the parish; Rev. Samuel Chapin, who baptized John Tyler (President), is buried beneath the chancel of the church.

Westover Church was terribly mutilated by Arnold and Tarleton. Federal troops used it as a stable. When reclaimed for use again in 1867 it had neither doors, windows nor floor.

A silver communion plate, "*Ex Dono* Sara Braine," about 1687, is still in use.

CHARLES CITY COUNTY

Berkeley

Berkeley, the home of the Harrisons—between Shirley and Westover, on the James—was the home of the fifth Benjamin Harrison, the "signer," and the birthplace of his famous son, William Henry Harrison (1773). Here, in his mother's room, President-elect Harrison, of Ohio and Indiana, wrote his inaugural address. Vice-President John Tyler, who succeeded him, was also born in Charles City County, at Greenway (1790).

In 1619, the London Company granted Berkeley plantation to Sir George Yeardley, Sir William Throckmorton, Richard Berkeley, George Thorpe, and John Smith. In 1636, Berkeley was again patented by seven Englishmen. In 1676, it was owned by Giles Bland, executed for participation in Bacon's Rebellion. Eventually, Berkeley became the home of Benjamin Harrison, III, of Surry County, grandfather of the "signer;" and it remains today in the Harrison family.

When Berkeley was McClellan's headquarters in the Civil War, the beautiful shade trees were destroyed.

JAMES CITY COUNTY

Hickory Neck Church

Hickory Neck Church, near Toano, is a quaint little house of worship in Blisland parish. It is one of the Peninsula's historic treasures. Hickory Neck was once a school and twice a church. Directions for building the present (or a former) church in 1733 are still on record. Four of the early ministers—Revs. Wm. Taylor, Daniel Taylor, Chichely Thacker, and Price Davies—served continuously from 1680-1785. "Tythes" ceased in 1786, and the parish lost its identity after 1799.

After 1825, money received from the sale of the glebe lands was used, by State authority, to convert the little church into a schoolhouse. The Hickory Neck Academy was vacated after the Toano High School was erected. When Bruton Church, in Williamsburg, required a house of worship for its mission here—conducted by the Rev. John Bently—Hickory Neck was restored to its churchly use, as fee-simple church property.

JAMES CITY COUNTY

Powhatan

Powhatan, ancestral home of the Egglestons, is northwest of Williamsburg, and separated from Green Spring by Powhatan swamp. The plantation (originally 1,173 acres) was patented by Richard Eggleston (emigrant in July, 1635), and the house was built, tradition says, by Richard Taliaferro.

A Joseph Eggleston was born here in 1676. Another Joseph Eggleston settled in Amelia County, and Richard Eggleston, great-great-grandfather of President Eggleston, of Hampden-Sidney College, settled in Cumberland County.

Prior to the Revolution, the Thorpes and Taliaferros owned Powhatan, and later, William Lee owned it.

Powhatan is an eight-room building, constructed of glazed-end brick, laid in Flemish bond. It is fifty-four by thirty-four feet, with walls two feet thick, and two great T-chimneys for eight fireplaces. The chimneys, from basement floor to top, are sixty feet high.

Federal troops fired the house in the War Between the States, but it is now in well-preserved condition.

JAMES CITY COUNTY

Green Spring

Green Spring, where Governor Berkeley lived, is five miles northwest of Williamsburg.

A marker on this property bears this inscription: "GRANTED To Sir William Berkeley in 1642 and his HOME during his administration as Royal Governor of Virginia. HEADQUARTERS of Nathaniel Bacon in Revolution of 1676. All Acts of Assembly of June 1676, 'Bacon's Laws,' were repealed by the Proclamation of King Charles II and by Acts of Assembly at Green Spring in February 1677."

Sir William Berkeley married dame Frances Stevens (widow), of Warwick County. After his death in England, Lady Berkeley married Philip Ludwell (once Berkeley's secretary), who inherited her estate. However she retained the name Lady Frances Berkeley.

It was near Green Spring that Cornwallis defeated LaFayette.

William and William Ludwell Lee owned Green Spring in 1777-1803. The Lee house here was burned during the Civil War. A beautiful spring still flows near the site of Berkeley's once commodious mansion, the foundations of which were excavated in 1928.

JAMES CITY COUNTY

Lake Matoaka

Lake Matoaka is one-half mile west of Williamsburg, and its name makes it a natural memorial to the Indian princess Pocahontas, for Matoaka was her real name. The lake is the property of William and Mary College, and the institution has wisely substituted this romantic name for the former Jones' Pond, inasmuch as the road to Jamestown Island borders the southern shore of this beautiful body of water.

Pilgrims to the birthplace of the American Republic, where the Indian maiden immortalized her name by cementing friendship between her people and the first Virginians, are delighted with the natural picture of wooded hills reflected in the placid waters of Lake Matoaka. This lake of the woods is the source of College Creek (formerly Princess Creek), which empties into the James River at Archer's Hope point of land, where the Jamestown settlers stopped May 12, 1607, but shallow water prevented their landing.

JAMES CITY COUNTY

Site of Fort Magruder

Near Williamsburg

Fort Magruder, about a mile southeast of Williamsburg, was a defense erected by Johnston's army to check McClellan on his Peninsular campaign to capture Richmond. The Confederate forces under Johnston were in command of Longstreet. The fort was "a strong earthwork with a bastioned front and a wide ditch," occupied by the brigades of Kershaw and Semmes under Bankhead Magruder, with Federals under Hooker and Smith attacking. Forest trees felled in tangled confusion impeded the Federal advance made in rain and mud.

In the Battle of Williamsburg, May 5, 1862, Winfield S. Hancock's command turned the tide for the victorious Federals, who marched into Williamsburg, May 6th. Prominent Confederate officers engaged in the battle were: Ambrose P. Hill, "Jeb" Stuart, and L. Q. C. Lamar. The Williamsburg battery of two guns was commanded by William R. Garrett. The total Confederate loss was 1,560; the total Federal loss was 2,283. Portions of Magruder's defenses still remain.

JAMES CITY COUNTY

Kingsmill

On the James River

Kingsmill plantation, below Jamestown Island, is three miles from Williamsburg. It was known as Kingsmill as early as 1637, then the home of Richard and Jane Kingsmill, who had settled on "Neck of Land east of James Citty," where they lived in 1624. Their daughter Elizabeth, born in 1625, married (first) Nathaniel Bacon, Sr., and (second) William Tayloe.

The plantation passed from Nathaniel Bacon to the Burwell's at Carter's Grove. In the *Virginia Gazette* for January 31, 1781, Lewis Burwell, Jr., living then on the Kingsmill estate of 850 acres, advertised the place for sale. The buildings consisted of an eight-room dwelling, two four-room offices, and a storehouse—all brick structures. Foundation ruins of these buildings still remain.

In April, 1781, Kingsmill was the landing place of Benedict Arnold and General William Phillips. Gordon, in his *Ommirandy,* accords Kingsmill, of ante-bellum days, a niche in Virginia literature.

JAMES CITY COUNTY

Carter's Grove

On the Pocahontas Trail

Carter's Grove, five miles below Williamsburg, on a terrace overlooking the James, is a magnificent colonial manor-house, built of blue and red-glazed brick. The interior is paneled with heart pine in natural color. The doors are fitted with silver-plated knobs, locks and hinges.

Carter's Grove plantation was once a part of Martin's Hundred parish, established in 1618. "King" Carter gave it to his daughter Elizabeth as a dower when she married Nathaniel Burwell, of Carter's Creek. Their son, Carter Burwell, built Carter's Grove about 1751. The work was done by slave labor, under a "master-workman," David Mifitree, who was brought from England to build the house.

In the Revolutionary War, Tarleton's troopers left sabre cuts on the handsome balustrade of the stairway.

In 1908 Percival Bisland restored Carter's Grove.

Recently the present owner added very extensive improvements to the property.

Great cedars, locusts, and poplars adorn the premises.

WARWICK COUNTY

Denbigh Baptist Church

Denbigh Baptist Church, east of Warwick Courthouse, on the Pocahontas Trail, is one of the oldest Baptist churches in Virginia, the congregation having been organized in 1774. The site of the original building, according to Bishop Meade, is very near the present frame church, which several times has been rebuilt.

The first Denbigh Church was erected by the Episcopalians, prior to 1744. The first known minister, of record, was Rev. Roscoe Cole, in 1754. The last one of the Episcopal faith, was Rev. Mr. Camm, son of the noted Rev. John Camm, of Williamsburg.

The first Baptist minister of Denbigh Church, following its abandonment by the Episcopalians after the Revolution, was Elder Matthew Wood, who had served in the Continental army.

Denbigh was the name of the home of Captain Samuel Matthews, who had come to Virginia in 1622, owned a plantation on the James River, and afterwards became governor.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Warner Hall

Warner Hall, on the Severn River, derives its name from Augustine Warner (1610-1674), who was one of the 105 emigrants transported to the colony by Adam Thoroughgood, about 1628.

Only the left wing of the original twenty-five-room building is standing. The main portion of the old home was burned a decade or two before the War Between the States, by a slave boy who thought thereby, tradition says, to cause his master to move to Norfolk. The present Warner Hall is therefore, less than a century old.

Augustine Warner, Jr. was speaker of the House of Burgesses during Bacon's Rebellion. Warner Hall, having been Bacon's Gloucester County headquarters for a while, the proprietor suffered property losses estimated at nearly £1,000.

Augustine Warner, Jr. died in 1681, leaving three daughters—Mary, Mildred and Elizabeth. Elizabeth inherited Warner Hall. Mildred married Lawrence Washington, and became the grandmother of George Washington.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Rosewell Ruins

Rosewell, ruins only since a fire in 1915, mark the site of the famous Rosewell House, ancestral home of the Pages. Here, on the York, according to some historians, stood the Indian village of We-ro-wo-co-mo-co, where Pocahontas rescued Captain John Smith; and here came Captain Newport to crown Powhatan emperor.

Rosewell was a three-story mansion, built (1725-1730) by Mann Page, son of "Honorable Collonell Matthew Page, Esq." (1659-1793), son of Colonel John Page, emigrant in 1650. Mann Page was the grandfather of John Page, governor of Virginia (1802-1805). At Rosewell, while visiting John Page, his friend, Jefferson is said to have first drafted the Declaration of Independence; and here Page melted window weights into bullets for advancing the Revolution.

Rosewell ruins is a regrettable example of Virginia's disappearing landmarks. But the story of Pocahontas, the "Nonparella of Virginia," will ever hallow the region around this historic mansion.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Ware Church

Ware Church, in Ware parish, established in 1652-1654, was erected 1680-1690, during the rectorship of Rev. James Clack (1679-1723), and is built on land formerly belonging to the Cooke-Throckmorton estate of Merry Mount.

The church, forty by eighty feet, with walls three feet thick, is built of glazed-end brick. A brick wall surrounds the church and cemetery, in a grove of cedar and walnut trees. English flagstones originally formed the floor of the aisles. In renovating the church in 1854, the entire interior was changed.

Ware Church is an outstanding Virginia shrine. The first bishop's visit to the church was made by Rev. James Madison, of William and Mary College. Rev. James Maury Fontaine was rector from 1764 to 1795. Mrs. Mann Page, of Shelly (at or near We-ro-wo-co-mo-co), when a child thought he was the best and greatest man in the world, except her father—General Nelson.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Abingdon Church

Abingdon Church, erected 1751-1755, in the form of a Greek cross, and constructed of glazed-end brick, is built in an oak grove on land donated by Augustine Warner. It measures eighty-one by seventy-six feet. The end of each wing is thirty-five feet wide. The aisles were once paved with flagstones.

Mildred Warner, as a maiden, worshiped in the first Abingdon Church, married Lawrence Washington, and became the grandmother of the "Father of his Country." The Burwell, Lewis, and Page families also worshiped here.

The Bible belonging to Rev. John Gwynn, rector from 1674-1688, has been preserved. The whole interior has been remodeled in recent times.

The glebe property was all lost by State legislation in 1802. A mutilated parish register for 1674-1761 is now preserved by the Virginia Historical Society.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Debtor's Jail

Debtor's Jail. This one-room, red brick prison bears, by the side of the door, on a metal plate, this record: "Debtor's Jail Built Previous to 1754. In 1754 County Surveyor Laid off 300 Square Yards where Prisoners were Allowed Liberty."

This old jail stands near the courthouse, and faces the present Gloucester County jail. It has three windows, and is heated by a fireplace. Two large elms spread their sheltering limbs over this old relic of bygone days, protecting, as it were, this memorial of the time when the "prisoner for debt" was a factor in the economic life of the community. The tree at the rear has grown so close against the wall of the building as to become a natural buttress.

This debtor's jail is now the office of the County Treasurer and the Commissioner of Revenue. Thus the old prison stands today as a mile-post in civic progress.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Long Bridge Ordinary

Long Bridge Ordinary is not far from the town of Gloucester. Its architecture indicates its erection prior to 1727. As early as 1736 it was a favorite stopping place on the stage coach line from Fredericksburg. The "ordinary" was not an inn; it furnished meals only.

When Long Branch no longer entertained travelers, the owners changed its name to Edge Hill. It is built against a hill.

The house may be entered from the ground floor, or from the rear into the second story, built on a level with the hill. Edge Hill is a quaint but attractive structure, and is still well preserved. The walls of the first story are brick; the two upper stories are built of wood.

About 1913 the house became the property and home of the Gloucester Woman's Club. It is now furnished with interesting antiques, combining domestic charm with the rich traditions of the old "ordinary."

GLOUCESTER COUNTY

Belroi

Belroi, on the Tidewater Trail, was the birthplace of Dr. Walter Reed, the "father of public health work." The humble little cottage was the Methodist parsonage, home of Rev. Lemuel Reed, minister of the Gloucester Circuit, when his son, the future benefactor of the human race, was born here September 13, 1851. Walter lived here afterwards only about fourteen months. The house originally was the home of the overseer of Belroi plantation.

Dr. Reed's name is honored in every civilized country in the world for his great discovery revealing the cause of yellow fever. Other memorial buildings to Dr. Reed are: The Walter Reed School, in Newport News; the Walter Reed Hospital, in Washington City, and Walter Reed Hall, in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

The Walter Reed Memorial Commission, created by the Medical Society of Virginia, in 1927 restored, and with appropriate ceremonies, on October 14th, dedicated Belroi as a national shrine.

GLOUCESTER COURTHOUSE

Walter Reed Memorial Tablet

A mural tablet to Dr. Reed's memory, erected in Gloucester County courthouse, records the fact of his birth in historic Gloucester County:

"On September 13, 1851 was born in this county Walter Reed, M.D., M.A., LL.D., Major and Surgeon in the Army of the United States, who, by demonstrating in Cuba the transmission by mosquitoes of Yellow Fever, gave to man control of our Hemisphere and placed his name on the roll of Benefactors of Humanity.

"Died at Washington, D. C., November 23, 1902.

"This tablet was erected by the Court of Gloucester and a few of his friends.

"November 23, 1903."

Dr. Walter Reed was born at Belroi, the little Methodist parsonage, now a dedicated shrine, about five miles southwest of the courthouse. There his father, Rev. Lemuel Reed, lived while preaching at eighteen appointments in three counties.

NEW KENT COUNTY

St. Peter's Church

St. Peter's Church, on the Pamunkey River, was built in 1703; the tower, in 1715. It cost 146,000 pounds of tobacco. St. Peter's is "the Church where George Washington was *not* married."

Several miles from the Church was the White House, destroyed by fire some years ago, where the brilliant wedding of George Washington and Martha Custis was solemnized by Rev. David Mossum.

The Rev. David Mossum was born in London, and came to Virginia from Newburyport, Massachusetts, and held the rectorship of St. Peter's parish forty years.

Bishop Meade tells of the deplorable state of the Church in this parish prior to the Mossum rectorship. His *Old Churches* contains a list of the ministers of St. Peter's from 1682 to 1856—except for the dreary interval between 1797 and 1843, when the Church had no rector.

St. Peter's Church is considered the outstanding colonial shrine in New Kent County.

NEW KENT COUNTY

Poplar Grove Farm

Poplar Grove, where George Washington, in 1758, met, wooed and won the widow Custis, was the home of Mr. Chamberlayne, who persuaded Washington tc be his guest for dinner, after he (and Bishop, his military servant) had ferried across the Pamunkey, hurrying on their way to Williamsburg. Here also was a guest from the White House, the charming young widow, Martha Custis.

Washington was captivated—though in haste, he tarried long; urged by his hospitable host, he remained till morning.

Wealthy Mrs. Custis was sought by many suitors. But, while Washington waited at Williamsburg, it was not very far to the White House. So, when the young Cincinnatus of the West returned to the frontier, he and the widow had plighted their troth. The wedding which followed, January 6, 1759, was one of the most brilliant ever witnessed in Old Virginia. Colonel and Mrs. Washington spent their honeymoon in Williamsburg.

NEW KENT COUNTY

Providence Forge

Providence Forge, formerly owned by the Jerdone family, has been, since 1911, the property of Dr. George Potts, high priest of Masonry, and in his ninety-first year, justice of the peace. The residence is an old-fashioned, eight-room frame house, with dormer windows. Two of the four big chimneys are like Siamese twins.

Providence Forge takes its name from an old forge for making farm implements, erected here in 1770-1771 by Charles Jeffry Smith, William Holt, and Francis Jerdone. Smith was a Presbyterian minister.

Some years ago portions of this pioneer forge were found in the old mill dam on the place; four large iron slabs, a hammer, and the trip, all known collectively, as "the old trip hammer." The anvil is missing.

The Nathaniel Bacon Chapter, D. A. R., has purchased the historic relic, to mount it at Providence Forge as a public exhibit.

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TO RICHMOND and WASHINGTON
WILLIAMSBURG
YORK RI
YORKTOWN
LEE HALL
JAMESTOWN
CAMP EUSTIS
DENBIGH
JAMES RIVER
BACONS CASTLE
SMITHFIELD
BENNS CHURCH
The
Historic Virginia
Peninsula
The Historic Virginia Peninsula, rich in history, tradition and scenery, is now on the main highway route to the South via
The
James River Bridge
Route
TO SOUTH
via
SUFFOLK

CHESAPEAKE BAY
LANGLEY FIELD
NEWPORT NEWS
HAMPTON
FORTRESS MONROE
HAMPTON ROADS
CAPE HENRY
OCEAN VIEW PARK
NORFOLK
CHURCHLAND
VIRGINIA BEACH
PORTSMOUTH
TO SOUTH VIA GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGHWAY